

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

# SOCCER

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WEEKLY

\$3.00

## ***I'm Tough!***

**Socceroo Nutter  
Kevin Muscat**

*Page Nine*

- Young Socceroos
- Cosmos stuns Spirit
- Global Game
- Kelly Golebiowski Poster  
& Soccer's Wedding of the Century!



# SOCCER WEEKLY

## AUSSIE & BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY

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"WELL DONE COSMOS"

## WIN A FREE NORTHERN SPIRIT SHIRT! PAGE 30

## LOVE ME, LOVE MY FOOTBALL TEAM

By Bonnie Mersiades

In what is thought to be a record crowd for an Australian wedding, the Northern Spirit lovebirds, Donna and Paul, married at North Sydney Oval on Friday night ahead of the kick-off in the game between Northern Spirit and Canberra Cosmos.

Paul confessed to Soccer Weekly on his wedding day to some pre-wedding jitters.

"I'm not nervous about getting married," he said. "I'm sure about that. But I'm nervous about all the publicity and everything."

Paul, who is a 31 year old air-conditioning engineer, said that he didn't anticipate the level of interest from the media sparked by his pre-game proposal on Valentine's Day (all five Sydney TV stations covered it).

In a grand romantic gesture, Paul arranged for Northern Spirit's regular skydiver to carry a large banner asking "Donna, will you marry me?"

Borrowing ground announcer Tim Bailey's microphone, he then asked for Donna's hand from the middle of the park. Fortunately for Paul, Donna said "yes", although not without counter-offers from around the ground.

Paul and 27 year old Donna, who works for AAMI, met in their native Hertfordshire in England.

They left England just over 20 months ago to experience a bit more of the world together, and after ten months in New Zealand moved to Sydney nine months ago.

They have followed Northern Spirit since Day One.

"We were really thrilled when we knew there would be a football club around the north shore area. We love Australia, but we missed our family and our football. We're both ardent supporters back home, but we support different clubs so Northern Spirit allows us to support one team together," Paul said.

Donna is an Arsenal fan, while Paul

supports Liverpool.

"Yes, there are some times in our household when we just don't talk to each other!"

"At North Sydney Oval, we stand behind the goal at the Fig Tree end of the ground and it's great. We have a good night out and really enjoy ourselves, which is why we were happy to get married at a game. It's a fun time, and it's something different."

Not only that, but a record wedding guest list, entertainment, no arguments about where to seat the relatives at the reception, great publicity (which means lots of wedding photos to choose from), a video, and an MC all thrown-in.

Perhaps this could be a new fund-raising venture for cash-strapped NSL clubs — NSL Weddings Inc.?

Despite threatening rain, the weather was fine. The crowd witnessed proceedings with interest and even The Bob Stenders allowed Donna and Paul to enjoy their special occasion with appropriate dignity.

A bevy of television crews and photographers surrounded the bridal party throughout the short ceremony.

Arriving in a white chevy limo, Donna wore ice pink and had one bridesmaid wearing a matching dress of pale mint. In another first, former Soccerroo and Spirit captain, Robbie Slater, gave the bride away.

Unfortunately for Donna and Paul (and the rest of the Spirit supporters), their otherwise perfect day was spoiled by a less than perfect footballing effort from Northern Spirit.

"It's a shame to lose, but Arnie has said from Day One that he just wanted to make the Top 6."

"The way it works here, it's a lottery once you do get to the Top 6 and I'm confident we'll be there at the end of April," said Paul.

Donna and Paul will defer their honeymoon until August when the plan to return to England for a holiday. They hope to settle permanently in Australia.

## YOUR ERICSSON CUP SIDE'S FINAL GAMES

**ADELAIDE SHARKS**  
Rd 26 v Wollongong Wolves away  
Rd 27 v Adelaide City at home  
Rd 28 v Northern Spirit away  
Rd 29 v Brisbane Strikers at home  
Rd 30 v Sydney Sharks away

**ADELAIDE CITY**  
Rd 26 v Gippsland Falcons at home  
Rd 27 v Adelaide Sharks away  
Rd 28 v Newcastle Breakers at home  
Rd 29 v Marconi Fairfield away  
Rd 30 v Sydney Olympic at home

**BRISBANE STRIKERS**  
Rd 26 v Canberra Cosmos at home  
Rd 27 v South Melbourne away  
Rd 28 v Gippsland Falcons at home  
Rd 29 v Adelaide Sharks away  
Rd 30 v Newcastle Breakers at home

**CANBERRA COSMOS**  
Rd 26 v Brisbane Strikers away  
Rd 27 v Sydney United at home  
Rd 28 v bye  
Rd 29 v South Melbourne away  
Rd 30 v Gippsland Falcons at home

**CARLTON SC**  
Rd 26 v Marconi Fairfield at home  
Rd 27 v Sydney Olympic away  
Rd 28 v Perth Glory at home  
Rd 29 v bye  
Rd 30 v Melbourne Knights away

**GIPPSLAND FALCONS**  
Rd 26 v Adelaide City away  
Rd 27 v Northern Spirit at home  
Rd 28 v Brisbane Strikers away  
Rd 29 v Sydney United at home  
Rd 30 v Canberra Cosmos away

**MARCONI FAIRFIELD**  
Rd 26 v Carlton SC away  
Rd 27 v Melbourne Knights at home  
Rd 28 v Wollongong Wolves away  
Rd 29 v Adelaide City at home  
Rd 30 v Northern Spirit at home

**MELBOURNE KNIGHTS**  
Rd 26 v Newcastle Breakers at home  
Rd 27 v Marconi Fairfield away  
Rd 28 v Sydney Olympic at home  
Rd 29 v Perth Glory away  
Rd 30 v Carlton SC at home

**NEWCASTLE BREAKERS**  
Rd 26 v Melbourne Knights away  
Rd 27 v Wollongong Wolves at home  
Rd 28 v Adelaide City away  
Rd 29 v Northern Spirit at home  
Rd 30 v Brisbane Strikers away

**NORTHERN SPIRIT**  
Rd 26 v South Melbourne at home  
Rd 27 v Gippsland Falcons away  
Rd 28 v Adelaide Sharks at home  
Rd 29 v Newcastle Breakers away  
Rd 30 v Marconi Fairfield away

**PERTH GLORY**  
Rd 26 v Sydney Olympic at home  
Rd 27 v bye  
Rd 28 v Carlton SC away  
Rd 29 v Melbourne Knight at home  
Rd 30 v Wollongong Wolves away

**SOUTH MELBOURNE**  
Rd 26 v Northern Spirit away  
Rd 27 v Brisbane Strikers at home  
Rd 28 v Sydney United away  
Rd 29 v Canberra Cosmos at home  
Rd 30 v bye

**SYDNEY OLYMPIC**  
Rd 26 v Perth Glory away  
Rd 27 v Carlton SC at home  
Rd 28 v Melbourne Knights away  
Rd 29 v Wollongong Wolves at home  
Rd 30 v Adelaide City away

**SYDNEY UNITED**  
Rd 26 v bye  
Rd 27 v Canberra Cosmos away  
Rd 28 v South Melbourne at home  
Rd 29 v Gippsland Falcons away  
Rd 30 v Adelaide Sharks at home

**WOLLONGONG WOLVES**  
Rd 26 v Adelaide Sharks at home  
Rd 27 v Newcastle Breakers away  
Rd 28 v Marconi Fairfield at home  
Rd 29 v Sydney Olympic away  
Rd 30 v Perth Glory at home

### REMINDER

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Remember, Soccer won the Ch.7 poll  
for most popular football.



# Australian News

By Eva Loukas

## YOUNG SOCCEROOS OFF TO A FLYING START IN HOLLAND

Soccer fans rejoice: another World Cup is just around the corner. The World Youth Championships are set to kick off in Nigeria on April 3 with the best of the world's under 20s ready to strut their stuff on a world stage.

The Young Socceroos are currently in camp in The Netherlands preparing for the tournament and early results indicate the team is doing well.

The Aussies took on Dutch Second Division side Heracles in their first warm up match and defeated them 2-0. Sydney United's Joel Griffiths opened the scoring for Australia early in the first half with Carlton's Marco Bresciano adding a second goal in the 51st minute.

Young Socceroo coach, Les Scheinflug, speaking to Soccer Australia after the match said "the boys worked

very hard for their victory but the team is definitely improving and, overall, I'm happy with what I've seen in this first preparation match".

Young Socceroo, the colossal Simon Colosimo, spoke after Australia's first win about the cold in Holland. If he went overseas after this season, he would prefer Italy or Spain, but if it was Holland, "I really don't like the cold weather, so I'd have to ask Mother Nature to turn the heaters up!", quipped the Carlton defender. In the short term though, Colosimo's ambition is, "to captain us to a gold medal".

In a second friendly, Australia took on and defeated Dutch First Division club, FC Twente. Both goals came in the second half courtesy of Brett Emerton and Westerloo's John Maisano.

The Aussies will also face Dutch club Waalwijk today (March 23).

Young Socceroo midfielder, Brett Emerton, is optimistic that his team will do well at the Championships, "in camp everyone's looking fairly sharp and fit and that's something we're building on a daily basis".

Emerton rates teammate and Empoli's midfielder, Vince Grella, as one of the stand-out players of this current Australian squad: "He's been playing in Italy and just in training today I could notice the difference".

Grella is excited at the prospect of representing his country at national level: "I'm really looking forward to playing in Nigeria, especially after World Cup '97 in Malaysia, where basically my mistake against Japan cost us the game — that's been a monkey on my back and

I'm looking forward to making amends this time around".

Emerton was also part of the Young Socceroos' campaign in the last World Cup in Malaysia and that experience will be invaluable to the Aussies in Nigeria.

Jason Culina is another player whose experience in the Ericsson Cup with Sydney United and, more recently with Sydney Olympic, will no doubt prove to be an important asset to Australia come the finals.

Culina, 18, is on the verge of joining Danish club Brondby and hopes that he can perform well for the Aussies. "Firstly, success with this team in Nigeria is my goal. I'm also very close to a move to Brondby, so I'd like to think that is going to work out".

Young Socceroo defender Eddy Bosnar, from Northern Spirit, believes that everything is starting to gell well for the Australians. "The stage we're at now is starting to feel the same as the South American tour last June, it's all coming together with everyone really sharp at training, and playing better".

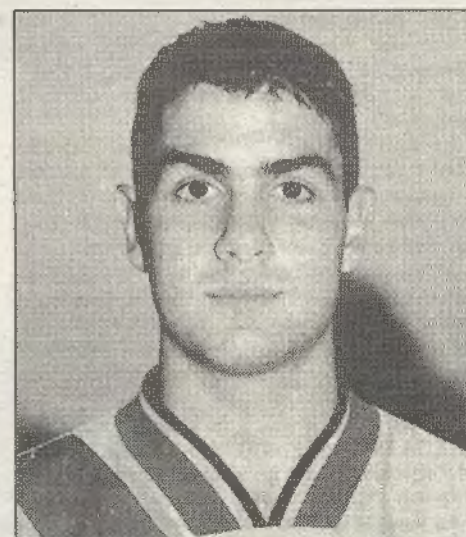
Bosnar's teammate at the Spirit, Paul Wearne believes the experience of players like Grella, Emerton and Culina will make all the difference for the Aussies. "You'd really have to put us down for a chance because of the great mix in the squad. We have quality players and experienced ones at that".

The draw is ...

Australia v Saudi Arabia, Sunday 4 April

Australia v Mexico, Wednesday, 7 April

Australia v Ireland, Saturday, 10 April



John Maisano ... also scored for Australia.

In other news, Aelaide City's Bradley Hassell, is on his way to Bradford at the end of the Ericsson Cup season, reports former SW reporter Mark Fowler.

He will trial with Bradford City in the summer, and should be allowed to leave for a nominal fee. Born in Australia his parents are both from Bradford.

Manchester City and Oxford are apparently also interested in the classy former Olyroo.



Brett Emerton ... one of the Young Socceroo scorers against FC Twente.

## NORTHERN SPIRIT V SOUTH MELBOURNE

FRIDAY MARCH 26

NORTH SYDNEY OVAL

KICK-OFF 7.30 PM



Robbie Slater



Luke Casserly



Ian Crook



Clayton Zane



Vaughan Coveny



Paul Trimboli

The NORTHERN SPIRIT is proudly sponsored by G3 COMMUNICATIONS



# Australian News

## Have Your Say ...

In the past few weeks I have read with great interest that Soccer Australia plans to appoint an overseas coach for the Socceroo position.

What for? Englishman, Roy Hodgson, has been spoken to, so we are told. He is quoted as saying he is not quite sure just yet what his intentions are.

Who cares and who wants to know.

Who is he? What has he got to offer? Who wants to know about him? Why do we care what he thinks or doesn't think? Why do we bother lowering ourselves to these mercenaries?

It is about time that Soccer Australia listens to what the soccer fraternity in this country wants. Soccer Australia commissioners are there to implement what we the clubs, stakeholders, supporters of the game and general public want. And we do not want an overseas appointment.

We have many outstanding coaches in Australia today (Krnjevic, Farina, Arnold). None more so than David Mitchell. In the 26 years that I have been involved in the game, never in the history of the National League has a coach achieved such outstanding, consistent and phenomenal results.

In two consecutive seasons he has had to completely rebuild his squad having lost a total of 19 players — without spending a solitary dollar, to reassemble a competitive team.

There is no need for me to go into further details of what he has achieved at Sydney United — we all know. What a refreshing approach he has to the game.

Every solitary coach I have even spoken to at senior level always took to camouflage their inefficiencies and weaknesses by churning out the usual following pathetic quotes:

1. We are rebuilding
2. We need a 3 to 5 year plan to achieve success
3. My squad is full of young players who need to gain experience and then we will achieve results
4. We are currently consolidating for the future
5. We are going through a lean period because of the numbers we currently have
6. Such and such a club is wealthier than us and as such have a stronger all-round squad than us
7. Our players are doing well considering that our opposition pay their players double or triple to what we do.

The list of excuses goes on and on. The difference between David Mitchell and all other coaches in Australia today is that not once has he ever used these "clutch at any straw" type excuses. Week in, week out he gets the job done. Just amazing and consistent results.

He is undoubtedly Australia's No.1 Coach and as such he has earned through proven results the undisputed right to be the Socceroo Coach.

David Mitchell has all the qualities that are needed — he is humble, loyal, has no ego, no floor show type tantrums, and a fierce, passionate determination to be successful. As well as knowledge, charisma and most importantly the total trust of all the players.

How lucky are we to have a man of such quality in our very own backyard.

In conclusion, having played in five European nationals during a 14 year overseas professional career, all of them in the top divisions, and also have served under astute leading coaches where he has gathered invaluable experience — Mitchell can meet any requirements.

Tony Raciti, Leichhardt Tigers Soccer Club

## CUP WIN FOR MARCONI

Each year for the last five years the Bathurst & Mitchell District Soccer Association has run a pre-season weekend competition for women's soccer called 'Mitchell Cup'.

Many Women's Super League and State League clubs take the opportunity to tune up before their competitions start. The 'Mitchell Cup' this year consisted of 15 teams in three pools of five. These are Marconi's results in the group and final stages ...



Marconi's Mitchell Cup-winning side. Good effort girls.

1. WON 4-0 v Manly Dolphins
2. WON 1-0 v Sydney United
3. WON 3-0 v NSW Acad.Jets
4. WON 3-0 v St. George

5. SEMI-FINAL  
WON 2-0 v UWS Macarthur

6. FINAL  
WON 2-0 v Gladesville

In this final, Marconi scored early to demoralise the opposition then just knocked the ball around. One sided and never in danger of losing Joanne Burgess scored

both goals in the final.

At the presentation it was noted that of the five years the 'Mitchell Cup' has been running Marconi Women have won three times.

Of the six games played they won six, scored goals for and nil against. Attacking players Katherine Cannuli, Joanne Burgess and Amanda Poulton scored with three goals each.

Other notables were Neisha Klessattel, Lisa Wan and Claire O'Neil as well as keepers, Leah Cam and Natascia Cavarretta. Congratulations also to coach B. Kimber for a top effort.

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**16**

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<b>EMU PLAINS</b>	— Nepean High School Great Western Hwy, Emu Plains
<b>FRENCH FOREST</b>	— The Forest High School Frenchs Forest Road, Frenchs Forest
<b>HUNTERS HILL</b>	— Hunters Hill High School Reiby Street, Hunters Hill
<b>ILLAWONG</b>	— Menai High School Gerald Road, Illawong
<b>MONA VALE</b>	— Pittwater High School Mona Street, Mona Vale
<b>ROCKDALE</b>	— St George Soccer Stadium Bestic Street, Rockdale
<b>ST. IVES</b>	— St. Ives High School Yarrabung Road, St. Ives

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**DATE:** Tuesday April 6 Friday April 9  
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**AGES:** For boys and girls aged 8 to 15 years  
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**Les Murray Director SBS Sport.**

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**Walter Gagg head of Technical Department, FIFA.**

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# Australian Features

## Have Your Say ...

I respond to Les Murray's article "The Adelaide Demise" in your March 16 edition. This concerned article depicting the plight of NSL Soccer in Adelaide was sad to read but well put and exact.

Mr Murray showed a respect for this State which is correct and fair, due to its contribution to Australian Soccer to date. In hindsight, however, I wish we could have spoken prior to this article being published as I could have added hope and another dimension to this report, giving it the balance, it and your readers deserve.

The weight I would have added countering the demise the report suggested, would have included elemental items that form the fundamental soul of any club, especially any new entrant taking part in the NSL.

Starting from scratch, not taking away from their magnificent "Greenfield" efforts, I do not believe Sydney's Northern Spirit and Perth's Glory were offered, had the time, or the opportunity to establish what I now list.

Firstly, Adelaide, in soccer terms, using racing parlance, is a thoroughbred. It's accustomed and experienced to producing winners, be it championships, top six representatives, quality world class players and even administrators. Virtually every facet of the Australian modern game has an Adelaide flavour to it, it has a history.

Secondly, this City is soccer and sport mad. Make no mistake, the fact that the current ethnic-based club structures cannot attract crowds, should not be taken as a lack of supporter for the sport. It's huge, it's silent, but it's there all right, just temporarily disenfranchised for the reasons Les Murray's article suggests.

Give this silent mass something South Australian to support and cheer for and watch out! It's frighteningly exponential.

Put modern business acumen behind the aforementioned, place both of them in Hindmarsh Stadium, arguably the best playing footprint in the land, and even our harshest critic can see the potential for success.

Adding further weight, one must not forget that the value added bonus of the total support of a progressive State Federation, who will offer quality players at an incredible rate, to a new incumbent with the right formula.

I have great pleasure in advising you that it won't be long before Adelaide, once again, offers Mr Murray the pleasure of sipping coffee in Rundle Street, surrounded by celebrating South Australian Soccer fans.

Mr Murray's concerns and kind thoughts are noted and will be remembered but, the matter is in hand.

Les Avory,  
SASF Chairman

## FALCONS LOOK TO THE FUTURE WITH Judelle

By Aidan Ormond

When you think of NSL board members, what comes to mind? Most would think of an elderly male, in a grey suit, set in his ways talking about days gone by with fellow cronies.

Of course, to every rule there's an exception. Enter 23 year old Judelle Johnston.

Judelle has recently been elected to the Board of Directors of the Gippsland Falcons Soccer Club, bringing with her a new generation of ideas.

Not only is she intelligent and charming, she handles the media like a veteran and, perhaps most importantly, she can play Soccer!

Judelle is a Science graduate with majors in Organic Chemistry and Bio Chemistry. She works as an Industrial Chemist for a Gippsland research group Envirogen.

Another project of Judelle's is to work with the local Gippsland Soccer League — the aim of it being based at the Gippsland Falcons headquarters.

Prior to being elected to the Gippsland Falcons Board of Directors, Judelle worked in several parts of the club. She is still a member of the Women's committee.

She spoke to Soccer Weekly last night and we asked her how her love affair with the game began.

"Born and bred in Sale, I began my involvement with this great game as a spectator, then at University I saw a

sign 'wanted players', so I started playing and loved it so much that I got involved in the Falcons' women's side, and then with the committee of the club."

And what do you think you bring to the board of the Falcons?

"Certainly a different point of view, hopefully another perspective and new ideas."

"We have several junior development projects we are working on, and we are also focussing on the family aspect of the fan base, hopefully attracting more than just the traditional supporter to our games."

"My vision for the new millennium at this club would be for the Falcons to stay in an NSL format, perhaps if there was a second division we could start there, because the league is getting stronger and stronger. From there we could go for promotion."

"It's going to be harder for regional teams in the future, we already have the Auckland Kings next year and I can see in time a team from Asia joining our league."

Why is it important that you stay in an NSL format?

"It's just a great opportunity for young people from this area to play NSL without having to leave. They can be positive role models for the rest of the community."

"So what we need to do is promote the game as a family event, and provide entertainment so it's a complete package, but of course it all comes back to the almighty dollar, fortunately our fans and sponsors are keen on helping us do this."

"I actually travelled to the Perth Glory game, they have only being around a few years but their marketing is very clever. Mind you in Perth they have about one million people to draw fans from."

"Our big problem is that we only have 170,000 people in a 200k radius, so it's more difficult."

"The Ericsson Cup is currently very diverse and with the introduction of Soccer 21 (the blueprint) the league will probably become more streamlined and organised so it all needs to come together."

The new sponsorship with Federation Health?

"We have just signed a five year deal with Federation Health. It is mutually beneficial because they are now a national health insurance company, and are looking for national



Judelle Johnston ...  
Falcons' 23 year old  
board member.  
I hope to bring a  
new perspective.  
Pics by Stan Wright.



Part of Falcons' match day entertainment.

exposure, which of course we can give them.

"The feedback is very positive, and they have said they are willing to help financially with our future plans, which include buying new players for next year. Obviously we want to be more competitive."

"It is a very young team, in fact the majority of our team could play NYL! For sure, we are likely to be a club that will make money from sales of good young players in the future — Archie Thompson is a good example."

"I spoke with our President who says that the sport should embrace new ideas, and my President is very supportive of me being here. I am here because I want to be. It's football. I've been made very welcome on the board."

"I still have a lot to learn. It's a business, and you have to learn about all those aspects, such as sponsors' dealing, transfers etc., but really yes it would be an ambition of mine to be a President of a club in the NSL, but again, I am just learning the ropes at the moment."

On the world scene she is a big fan of Alan Shearer and Newcastle United, and the English game in general. ("I spent a lot of sleepless nights following them in the World Cup!")

Judelle Johnston clearly has much to offer, not just because she is a woman, but due to her knowledge of Soccer locally and in a wider Australian context.

The Falcons are leading the way with this forward thinking approach to their administration. It will be interesting to see how it works out.

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# Australian Features

## GUS' SHARKS CIRCLING THE TITLE

Port Melbourne Sharks coach Peter Tsolakis admits he was a little apprehensive when offered the job just a couple of weeks before the Premier League season had begun.

Alan Davidson was the coach of the Sharks when, well into the pre-season, he left to take another appointment.

The Sharks lost Davidson to Malaysian club Pahang before the start of the season (he has since resigned that post) replacing him with former South Melbourne and Heidelberg United favourite, Tsolakis.

This is Tsolakis' second coaching job. His first attempt was with Heidelberg, when things weren't going well. It left a little bit of a bad taste in his mouth.

"I was a little reluctant when they (Port Melbourne) offered me the job, after the Heidelberg experience" says Tsolakis.

"At Heidelberg, the situation was completely different. There, I took over half-way through the season and things didn't go well at all.

"Because I was there when Davo started, they wanted someone to carry on his work which would have been different had they brought in someone from outside."

When Davidson was there, he pinpointed Tsolakis as one of his most important players.

Injuries have taken its toll though and, sadly, we may have seen the last of Tsolakis the player.

"I don't think I'll be playing again. My knees have been giving me problems so for the time being, I've called it a day but that's not say that I won't play 3 or 4 months down the track if I'm feeling better."

Losing your coach in the run-up to a season would throw most clubs plans out, but not Port Melbourne.



**Peter Tsolakis was one of the most popular players on the scene during the early nineties. His exploits with South**

**Melbourne made him a favourite with the Middle Park faithful. He is now coaching. Dwyght Tuffnell investigates ...**



Peter Tsolakis during his days with South Melbourne.

"But I'm enjoying it here. Maybe because we're winning at the moment and the test will come if we start to lose a couple.

"I haven't changed much from what Davo (Alan Davidson) was doing. I think that's one of the main reasons why they appointed me.

Tsolakis and the Sharks have shown no effects of Davidson's departure, storming to the top of the league and are, currently, the only unbeaten side in the Premier League.

"This was the start we were looking for. Last year we lost the first four games and our main objective this season was not to do that again. So far, we've set out what we

wanted to do."

Tsolakis was with the club last season, although an injury in the lead up to the campaign restricted him to just a handful of appearances, so he knows all of the players.

"It has been a help. Playing with most of them last year has made me able to understand the way they play."

Sharks midfielder, Evis Heath, hasn't noticed too much difference in coaching styles between Davidson and Tsolakis.

"From a coaching point of view, there hasn't been much difference," said Heath. "Gus' knows all the players and has basically taken over where Davo left off."

Heath, 20, is in his second season with the Sharks having arrived last year from Newcastle Breakers.

He came to Melbourne, after speaking to a friend from Newcastle, Kosta Caimakamis, who was already with the Sharks.

"I still want to get somewhere with my soccer, so I had to do something about it" explained Heath.

"I knew Kosta down here, he set me up with the club, and things went on from there.

"Coming from Newcastle to Melbourne was a big change. The weather for one thing. In winter, it can get cold in Newcastle, but not as cold as what it does in Melbourne."

Other than the weather, Heath has no complaints about his move.

"It's been good, getting to know new people and Port Melbourne have looked after me well.

"The standard of the Premier League is good, the speed is one thing I noticed very early on. The pace of the Premier League is just as fast, if not faster than the Ericsson Cup."

Heath's immediate ambition is to get back into the Ericsson Cup.

"I'm going to see how I go this year and then at the end of the season I'll decide whether I go back to Newcastle or not. I would like to stay in Melbourne though."

Tsolakis said it was difficult to point out his best players so far, saying that everyone has been doing their job.

Peter Kakos, a prolific scorer with Oakleigh and Altona East in the lower divisions, has had little trouble adjusting to the Premier League, currently topping the goal scoring charts.

"He's made a huge impression on me" says Tsolakis. "I hadn't seen him before he came down to

training but he's a really good player who has been able to find the net in the second, first divisions and now the Premier League."

Nick Tsaltas and Nick Palamaras, two former Port players, are back after time spent in the Ericsson Cup with Gippsland Falcons.

Tsaltas has also been in terrific form. As club captain this season, Tsolakis says he's responded well to the extra burden.

"He hasn't been scoring goals but I dare say that he will start to get amongst them soon. But there has been nothing wrong with the way he has been playing."

Another ex-Shark, Dean Fak, also returned in the off-season.

Another surprise player, along with Kakos, has been George Tzirtzis.

Tzirtzis, a former youth team player at South Melbourne, played last season in the fourth division with Clifton Hill United.

He has been arguably the Sharks' best player so far this season, eclipsing the more established members of the Sharks line-up.

"I enquired about him and people said he was a good player who was very fit. Those people had their doubts whether he'd be able to handle the roughness of the Premier League but he has surprised me the way

put himself about.

"He's been one of the finds of the season. He came out of nowhere and has been revelation."

With no finals to decide the Premier League champion this season, there is little margin for error.

"I prefer it this way" Tsolakis said. "Every point counts now, you can't afford to drop any."

"Gone are the days when you can say we'll sneak into fifth place and then give the finals a real go, you can't do that anymore."

Heath is one player who believes the Sharks can go all the way.

"I think we can win it. We've a lot of ability in the squad and, more importantly, a lot of depth."

"We've got players who can fill in numbers of roles. If someone's injured, he can easily be replaced by another player in the squad."

Tsolakis, whilst not wanting to make predictions, says that if the Sharks keep playing the way they are, there's no reason why they shouldn't be up there.

"It might sound like a cliché, but we are taking one game at a time, not looking beyond that."

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# Australian Features

## A Day IN THE Life ...

Earlier this season, we looked at what an Ericsson Cup player gets up to in preparing for match day in *A Day in the Life of Chay Hews* from the Brisbane Strikers.

We're continuing the series by looking at what's involved in being a television commentator and talking to ABC TV's Alan Hunter.

Alan Hunter is a veteran of the national soccer league, having played for the Brisbane Lions, Heidelberg, Sydney United, Parramatta, the Brisbane Strikers and Carlton before retiring at the end of last season.

He was a fierce defender who scored 54 goals in a 343 game career which places him as the 10th highest all-time NSL appearance-maker. He also played for Australia, including at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.



After occasional stints as guest commentator with Optus Vision last season, Alan turned his hand to commentating with the ABC's Steve Robilliard for the

**A**lan Hunter is fast becoming one of the most well-recognised voices and faces in the media. Always a fiercely tough competitor in his playing days, Big Al is now the 'commments' man on ABC Soccer. Bonnie Mersiades spent a day with him ...

ABC Match of the Day, and also provides support to Optus Vision's coverage.

"I do more preparation as a commentator than I did as a player!" said Alan.

"I watch 4-6 matches each week from overseas and Australia. I particularly like to listen to Martin Tyler and Andy Gray. I meet weekly with players and coaches so I can keep up-to-date, and I'm trying to improve my communication and voice skills through specific training."

Alan also meets with Steve Robilliard and other ABC production team members at least once during the week regarding specific issues for the forthcoming game, or television issues such as camera technique, use of statistics and other information.

"Steve and I talk regularly because it's important that we have a good flow going during the game."

The ABC also co-ordinates the wardrobe of Alan, Steve and fellow commentator, Rob Wheatley to ensure that they turn up on match day wearing the same gear.

Alan arrives at the ground from which the crew are commentating some 2-27

hours before kick-off for sound-checks and pre-recording of interviews with players and coaches.

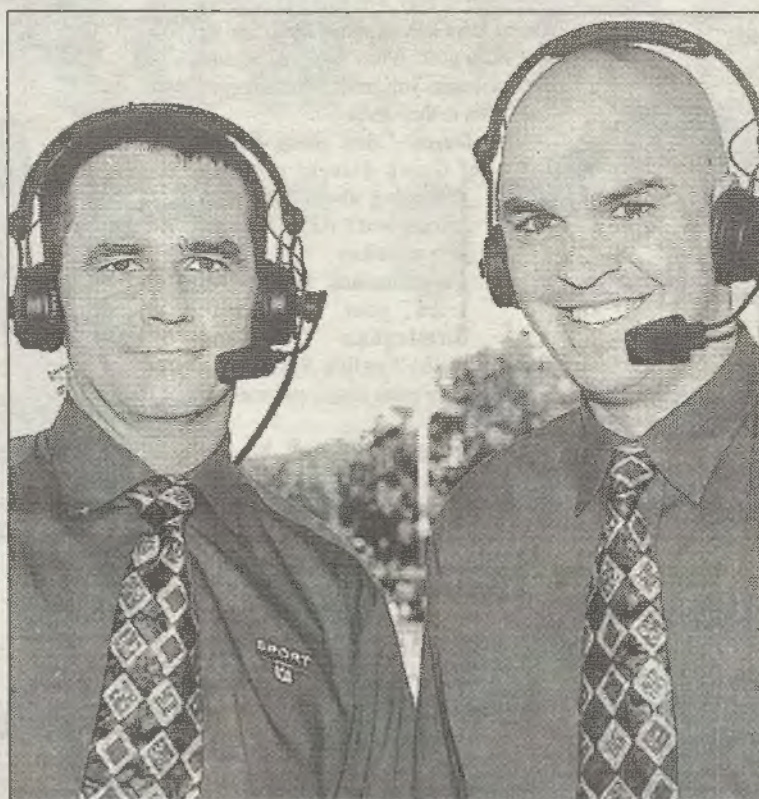
"I also like to soak up the atmosphere

—especially at a Northern Spirit game — and talk to the fans, refs and players if possible.

"I don't go into the dressing room before a game. Once the players are in

"Yeah," he laughs, "I'm all talked out for a bit. Not many would believe it."

There's always a post-match discussion with the production team, plus Steve and Rob, and an opportunity for a cold drink.



"I do more preparation as a commentator than I did as a player," Alan Hunter seen here with fellow commentator Steve Robilliard.

there, they're getting prepared for a game and coaches don't generally want a microphone in there as well!"

Once the game gets underway, Alan stays as focussed as he did in his playing days.

"You can't take your eyes off the ball or what's going on around it."

However, unlike his playing days, he admits that he is able to have a bite to eat and something to drink at half-time if he wants to!

"During the match, there's never a dull moment. As well as concentrating on the game, I've got to be aware of what Steve is saying, what Rob is saying, what the producer wants and what our statistician, Graham, is turning up for us. So what you hear on the broadcast is not all that's going on. There's talking back and forth all the time."

Once the match is over, Alan does what no-one who knows him well would believe, he doesn't talk for ten minutes!

He says there is varying facilities between the Ericsson Cup clubs. He rates North Sydney Oval, Hindmarsh Stadium and Marconi Stadium as the best broadcast boxes in terms of position and outlook, with Melbourne Knights and Optus Oval being the worst. The best hospitality — something dear to most people in the media! — is provided by Marconi and Sydney United.

If interstate, Alan will catch up with friends from his playing days, or have a drink with the ABC crew. In Sydney, he is often joined by his family at games — wife, Helen, and sons Ben, 9 and Sam, 7.

SPORT  
ABC

"Like me, Ben and Sam love the game — whether it be playing or commentating. They're into both!"

"After 16 years as a player, Helen is used to the upside down life of working on a weekend. Fortunately, she also loves the game, although she doesn't always get to go as she has her own career which often takes her interstate or overseas."

With only a handful of rounds left in the national soccer league, and having seen every team in action throughout the season, Alan is well-placed to give his views on the player of the year and the teams to beat.

"My pick for player of the year would be from De Amicis (South Melbourne), Cardozo (Sydney Olympic), Arnold (Northern Spirit), Markovski (Perth Glory) or Laybutt (Brisbane Strikers)."

"My predictions on the Top 6 haven't changed from the beginning of the season. In order — Perth, South Melbourne, Sydney United, Sydney Olympic, Northern Spirit and Marconi."

While he misses playing, Alan believes the transition has been made easier for him because of his involvement as a commentator.

"I enjoy the passion of the game. As a player, I always wanted to do my best when I was out there in the middle of the park. Now, I have the challenge of the perfect call! It's a great job, and I'm the perfect employee, because I love it so much."

Some wouldn't call it work — but it is a day in the life of Alan Hunter.

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# Australian Features



**W**elcome Amigos, we are the Four Diegos, so why don't you join us. Let's Samba, let's Rumba, let's La Bamba, let's Salza down the Copacabana with sombreros on our heads. Let's welcome Perth Glory's nippy striker ... Vas Kalogeracos.



**Diegos:** "The Diegos have a number of nicknames for you. 'Vaseline Vas' because you're a slippery customer on the field. 'Killer Kalogeracos' because you look more like a WWF wrestler. 'Vatican Vas' because you never tell a lie and preach the 'Holy Glory' Gospel to everyone you meet. In your opinion, which best describes you?"

**Kalogeracos:** "If I say the last one best describes me most people who know me well will know that I'm lying. The other options are pretty spot on. I really don't mind them. I don't have a nickname so I might adopt a Diego nickname to see me through."

**Diegos:** "You are a stocky, nuggety type of striker, but your team has its blessing of tall timber, namely Kiwi international and baby giraffe, Danny Hay; Socceroo and the walking Empire State building, John Markovski and Olyroo, Danny 'Mount Everest' Milosevic. Have they all got a mean streak or are they merely gentle giants in 'Godzilla-like' bodies?"

**Kalogeracos:** "I think that they are all gentle giants. I certainly don't take them too seriously. At training if they get in the way I just try and go through them. It doesn't really matter how big they are."

"Having said that, Danny Hay has a bit of a short fuse at times when he gets onto the ground. Generally though, they're all as nice as pie."

**Diegos:** "Some players seem to always play well against certain teams. You tend to produce blunders against South Melbourne, with some of your cracking goals proving testimony to that fact. Is it because you like sending the South glamour boys back to their hairdressing salons with their pony tail tucked firmly between their

legs, or is it pure coincidence that you tend to play well against them?"

**Kalogeracos:** "I think that it's just pure coincidence. We seem to play well against the better sides. When a team let's us play, I think that we just lift a gear. When you play against poor teams you tend to get dragged down to their level."

**Diegos:** "Most young Aussies of Greek descent grow up dreaming about forging a career with AEK Athens, Olympiakos or Panathinaikos. You instead tried your luck with Birmingham City and

Stockport County in the English Nationwide league. How did the move come about and was it a good experience?"

**Kalogeracos:** "It was a great experience. My first stint was when I was a lot younger, 19 years old. I was there for 18 months but left in the end because there were too many players at Birmingham City and I didn't feel I was going to get a run."

"I came home for a while, then Malaysia and then went for a second stint to England. Unfortunately it didn't work out again. As far as England is concerned I don't think I'll ever go back there."

**Diegos:** "You've played under East German coach, Bernd Stange for over half a season now. What are your impressions of him and has he given you a definite role in the squad?"

**Kalogeracos:** "I think that he is an exceptional coach. He brings ideas to the clubs that with another coach we would never know about. He is very professional in his approach and is one of the nicest people that you would ever meet."

"He is a really good bloke and quite a joker. He likes to keep everyone laughing. As far as my role in the squad is concerned, I've been finding myself in and out of the team."

## Quotes from The Four Diegos Files

Quote taken from a Four Diegos interview with the frustrated coach of an Ericsson Cup team shellacked by Glory in Perth recently.

"Sometimes you're the bug, sometimes you're the windscreen. I'll leave it to you to decide which we were."

And another.

"At night after the game I slept like a baby — I woke up and cried every two hours."



No slip ups ... Vas Kalogeracos scores another for Glory. With him is Buljubasic, Markovski and Trajkovski. All Glory pics by SportsWest media.

"I like to have a permanent position but unfortunately it hasn't come along. I guess I'll have to wait my turn."

**Diegos:** "Have you got a message for the millions in the 'Vas Kalogeracos-Perth Glory' fan club out there?"

**Kalogeracos:** "Keep jumping up and down, we're going to make the finals!"

**Diegos:** "Thanks Vas. Next time you apply a

sleeper-hold to an opposition defender just the of the Four Diegos. Adios amigo!"

**Kalogeracos:** "Thanks Diegos. Perhaps you partner me in a tag team, no disqualification, no barred, and no time limit cage match. Ki Kalogeracos and the Four Diegos — W Champions has a nice ring to it don't you thi Adios Diegos."



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# Australian Features



## The Four Diegos continue their VW Combi Van tour of the world by dropping in on Soccerroo and Wolves star ... Kevin Muscat



**Diegos:** "In a great advertisement for Aussie soccer, you virtually went from South Melbourne in the Ericsson Cup straight into the first team at Crystal Palace in 1996. In your first season after playing 49 of 51 games, you ended up being involved in a play off promotion

that you've been involved in this season was Wolves FA Cup clash against the mighty Arsenal. Unfortunately you were on the receiving end of a narrow 2-1 loss with Dutch pretty boy, Denis Bergkamp getting the winner. We all know that Denis has a fear of flying and we also

and suspensions and a number of appointments up at the English FA big house. Do you transform into a different person once you cross that white line or is it a case that all referees are blind?"

**Muscat:** "Just to clarify something — I've only been up at the F.A. big house once.

the club has offered me a new deal that is not as good as what I would have got if the chairman was still the club's 'Golden Tit'. There is a lot of pressure at this club because it is a Premiership club. Its stadium and its fans deserve to be in the premiership but no club has a God given right to be there

10 months of messing about with solicitors and lawyers. It was a battle that they were never going to win but obviously they thought that someone from the Western Suburbs wasn't going to pursue it. At the end of the day I'm still very bitter. Ever since I've left I've slept comfortably with

# WOLVES' WESTIE HARDMAN

game at Wembley. It was a rapid rise that you seemed to cope with well. In your opinion, is the jump between the Australian National League and English top-line soccer as big as the experts make out?"

**Muscat:** "I think if we're all honest with ourselves, it's a massive jump. Looking back, the thing I found most difficult was the actual number of games that had to be played. It's such a long season and you don't have that much time to train. It's easy enough playing in all the games but finding consistency week in week out was the thing that I found most difficult."

**Diegos:** "Wembley must have been a great experience for you. It's a tradition prior to the game that a Royal representative gets to meet the especially well groomed and well-mannered players of both teams. The Diegos know that you are a pretty sophisticated sort of bloke, but what does a dude from the Western Suburbs of Melbourne say to royalty?"

**Muscat:** "To tell you the truth it's one of the moments that I recall least. Winning the game, walking up the Wembley stairs, receiving my medal and giving the cup a big kiss were the things I remember most."

**Diegos:** "Do they tell you not to shake the Queen's hand with the hand that you put the dencorub on with?"

**Muscat:** "Thankfully it wasn't her that came down but I'm sure that whoever it was got a good dose of dencorub third degree burn from my handshake."

**Diegos:** "One of the biggest matches

know that you like to play it tough and hard. Did you stir him up about his fear and did you at any time threaten to tie

I need to make that clear because any further rumours are the last thing I need. The way I look at it is that it's all part and

parcel of the game. When I was growing up watching the English game it was very physical every week. Obviously FIFA are trying to clean up the game but many people are questioning whether this philosophy is making the game better. A lot of people go to the game because it's so competitive. The clashes and the bruises are what the crowd often want to see."

**Diegos:** "What qualities do you think Australians bring to the British game?"

**Muscat:** "Everyone who speaks to me in England is amazed at the number of Australians that

come over and do very well. I've seen a lot of trialists come and go but the Australians stand out because their attitude and character is much stronger. The way we are brought up in Australia, with a 'never say die' attitude, puts you in good stead. Involvement in many of the Australian teams as I grew up, also helped a lot because I've seen a lot of the world and played against many different nationalities. Gaining this type of experience at such a young age is something I'll always be grateful for."

**Diegos:** "Wolves have gone through a number of financial woes in the past. The clubs Chairman, benefactor and self described 'Golden Tit' has pumped enormous amounts of money into the club without much success so far. Given the high expectations for success at Wolves, do you feel the pressure as a player?"

**Muscat:** "Wolves is under a lot of pressure to get into the premiership. The chairman made that statement because he has pumped a lot of money into the club. He has recently employed people to run it more like a business and he has made it known that he will not be throwing his own money at the club anymore. It's unfortunate timing for me because



Captain Muscat against Denmark in a 1995 Olyroo friendly at the Sydney Football Stadium.

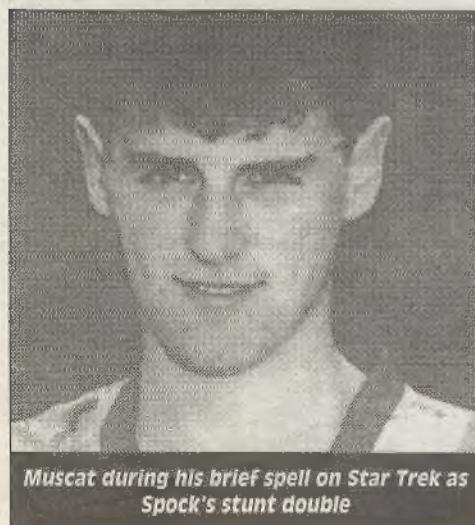
him to the wing of the next Qantas 747 out of Heathrow if he played well?

**Muscat:** "We were losing 1-0 but managed to get one back to make it 1-1. When it got to 2-1 one of our shots hit the inside of the post so we were unlucky not to get a result. The game was a big one for us. The stadium was packed and there was a lot of media hype. Unfortunately Bergkamp got the winner for the Gunners. A collision between myself and Denis, where he was left feeling a little worse for wear, was well documented here in the media."

**Diegos:** "We weren't going to mention that unsavory incident but seeing you brought it up, did you let him have it?"

**Muscat:** "Not really. It was just one of those things. He is well known for not liking the physical stuff and unfortunately for him that is very much part of the game here in England. I think though, that he ended up having the last laugh because he got the winner. At the end of the day he is a super performer and a great professional."

**Diegos:** "In the tradition of great Aussie sports people, you like it close, tough, hard and intense. You thrive on the physical battle, grown man on grown man, no quarter given and none taken. Tackle or be tackled. This philosophy has unfortunately earned you fines



Muscat during his brief spell on Star Trek as Spock's stunt double

so I guess we have to keep plugging away."

**Diegos:** "When you left Australia to join Crystal Palace you reportedly said that South Melbourne's treatment of you at the time 'was akin to someone robbing your house in broad daylight in front of your own eyes.' Obviously you weren't happy with the Lakesiders. Have the wounds healed and more importantly, has someone from the club extended a Kalamata Olive branch to you?"

**Muscat:** "I still feel very bitter towards the people involved. I thought the whole saga was a disgrace. I thought that I gave good years to South Melbourne and to try and do what they did was extremely disappointing. At the end of the day everything that was owed to me has been paid but it drag my family and myself through

myself but I think there are a few people at South Melbourne who haven't been able to do that."

**Diegos:** "Thanks Kevin. Keep on giving those foreign pretty boy strikers a hard time. Adios Amigo!"

The Four Diegos are radio celebrities and soccer scribes on Melbourne's Stereo 97.4 FM Saturday 10 am-12 midday.

E-Mail 'The Diegos' on FourDiegos@bigpond.com

Until next time ...Adios Amigos!

**Muscat:** "Thanks Diegos. I will do that and I'll make sure it's always by the Diego book of fair play — win at all costs with a taco in hand. Adios Diegos!"

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# SOCCER WOMAN

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## NEGATIVES ARE STILL POSITIVES

**F**orget the fact that the Matildas finished fifth of the Eight-nation Algarve Cup, a disappointment in some people's eyes. That is not, I believe, the manner in which we should view Australia's performance in Portugal.

Yes, it is always nice to win. And yes, the Matildas could have, should have done better.

But it is my feeling that what happened at the Algarve was actually a good thing, and occurred at a good time. That we played below our ability at times, that we lacked focus and fight and fullest commitment. That we didn't apply ourselves fully to the challenge, that we avoided taking the harder option.

The Matildas of late have earned many fantastic results. A first ever win against Italy to win the inaugural Australia Cup. A comprehensive victory over New Zealand to claim our berth at the World Cup. An equal world record 21-0 scoreline. A successful test series against North Korea. A huge win over Olympic silver medallists China to take out the final of the Tri-Nations Series. 624 consecutive minutes of international football without conceding a goal. Four consecutive tournament/series wins.

A fourteen match streak of undefeated play over ninety minutes.

To me it was as if things were going along too nicely. Don't get me wrong. But I feel it would have been dangerous for Australia to enter the World Cup with such a glamorous aura surrounding them.

Success doesn't just happen. It is earned through intensely hard work, through absolute dedication, through the hunger for perfection. It's the achievement of goals, the constant challenging of one's limits, the conquering of fears.

It's remembering that football is a

sport where perfection can never be attained, and so there is always a higher plane to be reached. Continual improvement must be the aim, the full focus.

But perhaps this focus and attitude was waning a little after all the recent applause.

And what better way to drive the facts home than with an unexpected failing.

Often the only way to grow, to learn, to develop, is to fall over, to crash, to fail when you were sure everything was going along just fine.

Every athlete must enter a contest with the confidence and belief. But this will only be of any use if the effort and heart accompanies it out on the pitch.

To the Matildas' credit, after the somewhat disappointing performances against Denmark and Portugal, they applied much more commitment against China and Sweden.

Now it's happened we've broken the happy streak, we've finished a tournament without collecting the plaudits, we haven't created any firsts or knocked off another big name.

Finally we've felt that thud, that low, alone feeling. But what is good about it is that we still have time to rectify the problems that raised their heads in Portugal. There are eight intense weeks of concentrated toil ahead of the Matildas before they take off on their World Cup mission.

That precious time will be worked to fullest with the players to emerge all the better for the experience.

We will never defeat the top nations in the world every time we play them, but at the least we should give our all each time we take that field.

In the scheme of things, the Algarve results aren't what counts. The World Cup is where we're striving to make our mark.

## GOLEBIOWSKI STARS IN DRAW

**T**he Matildas put in a disappointing performance to record a 0-0 draw against underdogs Portugal in the second Algarve Cup match played last Tuesday in Olhao.

A poor first half showing was followed by a better second stanza, but not enough to break the dogged Portuguese combination. Only fifteen of the 18-player squad were available for selection for the match, Bridgette Starr suspended, and Sarah Cooper and Alicia Ferguson both injured.

The Matildas pressed hard late in the game, trying every path to goal and came closest when striker Lisa Casagrande hit the inside of the post with nine minutes remaining. The pitch resembled a casualty ward for the final half-hour as almost every Portuguese player fell to ground for treatment in order to quell the siege on goal.

The failure to beat Portugal ended Australia's chances of lifting the Algarve Cup.

One sure positive to emerge from the day was the international debut of 17-year-old Peita-Claire Hepperlin who showed the composure and class of a World Cup veteran in the Matildas defence, not afraid to push forward in attack.

The Matildas laboured through the first half, gaining only four corners and creating two goalmouth scrambles of any note. The Portuguese came prepared to battle, conceding space on the flanks and marking tightly in the back third.

But the Aussies, with everything to play for, seemed unusually disinterested, to the point that a spate of reckless challenges and foul throw-ins from the opposition barely raised an objection.

Midfielder Kelly Golebiowski (see poster on centre pages) got in behind the home side defence regularly but the support from her teammates was sadly lacking. Forward Angela Iannotta was the Matildas' best in the opening period, bustling into dangerous positions.

Overall however this was one match the team would rather forget.

Australia: Butland, Gegenhuber, Bartlett, Tann-Darby (Hepperlin 56), Peters, Revell (Murray 62), Youman, Salisbury (Black 56), Golebiowski, Iannotta, Casagrande.

## IMPROVED MATILDAS DEFEATED BY CHINA

**T**he Matildas displayed their best form to date of the Algarve Cup but were defeated 2-0 by Olympic silver medallists China in Thursday's final preliminary round match played in Lagos.

In a match bristling with pace and energy, China's two first-half goals went unanswered by Australia to continue China's dream run into the final. China had entered the game already assured of its place in the final. But with the two nations to meet in the World Cup, China was not about to take the game lightly, especially after going down to the Aussies in their last meeting.

Angela Iannotta was unavailable for the clash, serving a one-match suspension with two yellow cards to her name.

A moment of madness ended the contest in the 28th minute when Aussie defender Bridgette Starr picked the ball up in the penalty box. Jin Yang converted the resultant penalty as the Matildas continued to protest, arguing that Starr had handled the ball a metre over the byline. The assistant referee had appeared to raise a flag, but was not prepared to support Australia's plea.

China had taken the lead after 17 minutes when a long-range freekick surfered off the wall and onto the underside of the crossbar. With the keeper stranded, three defenders shielded the ball inches from the line, but their failure to clear proved costly as Liu Ailing bustled the ball into the net.

The two goals were a tragedy for the Matildas who had started

purposefully in contrast to the earlier matches against Denmark and Portugal.

Underdogs Australia tested the best passing team in the world to the limit, the Matildas winning every statistic except the one that counted. China could boast no more than four shots on target and a handful of corners for the duration.

Australia twice hammered the crossbar with the keeper beaten, once from the luckless Lisa Casagrande and another from Joanne Peters, a curler from 30 metres. Julie Murray missed in a one-on-one with the Chinese keeper with thirty minutes remaining, whilst Casagrande beat the offside trap in the first half only to blast straight at the goalie.

Peters was the absolute standout, winning every ball in the air, dribbling through traffic and releasing strikers Murray and Ferguson with ease.

Golebiowski again sizzled down the left flank late in the game, her speed and brashness allowing her to deliver three crosses from in behind the Chinese defence. Anissa Tann-Darby showed more steel to be the pick of the defenders.

Australia: Kitching, Bartlett (Hepperlin 73), Starr (Salisbury 58), Tann-Darby, Cooper, Black (Golebiowski 68), Youman, Peters (Gegenhuber 73), Casagrande (Revell 58), Ferguson, Murray.

## AUSTRALIA DEFEAT SWEDEN IN SHOOTOUT

**T**he Matildas placed fifth in the Algarve Cup, last Saturday defeating Sweden 7-6 in the deciding penalty shootout after the score was locked at 1-1 at the end of ninety minutes.

The victory is especially significant as the Matildas will next meet Sweden in the World Cup finals in June. The result will have the traditional European power worried as they have now gone down twice to the Australians, the last meeting between the two ending in an upset 1-0 win to the Matildas in August 1997.

Goalkeeper Joanne Butland, in only her third international, made a fantastic diving save to stop Sweden's eighth penalty attempt, sealing the win for Australia. The shot was heading just inside the right post, but Butland's incredible reach made her the hero.

But the day also belonged to Matildas' striker Julie Murray, adding to her collection of priceless goals with the equaliser in the 71st minute. The Australian captain burst into the penalty box, blocked two desperate clearances before firing a low bullet past the unsighted Swedish goalkeeper. Apart from the goal, Murray's patient clever play was a feature.

Sweden had started the stronger of the two and controlled the opening twenty minutes. From then on however, it was Australia who looked the part, using the width well with their opponents already starting to tire in the heat and content to defend.

But it was the Swedes who snatched the lead on the stroke of half-time when Malin Gustafsson pounced on an angled cross and slotted the ball home across the body of keeper Butland.

The Matildas felt aggrieved as Butland had sportingly put the ball out of play to allow an injured Swede to receive treatment, but the ball was not given directly back to the Aussies and a mistake led to the goal.

The match ignited in the last twenty minutes with some great football as both teams pressed for the winner. Matildas' coach Greg Brown threw three players forward in the final stanza, but Sweden's

class keeper Ulrika Karlsson helped force the match into penalties. The end-to-end action would likely have resulted in a goal had the game gone to extra-time.

20-year-old 186cm goalkeeper Butland will grow in confidence after today's performance, making a fantastic save in normal time, before her two telling saves in the shootout. Teammate Anissa Tann-Darby missed with Australia's third penalty before Butland stopped Sweden's fourth to keep the Matildas in the game.

Successful from the spot were Murray, Joanne Peters, Alicia Ferguson, Cheryl Salisbury, Sharon Black, Kim Revell, and Traci Bartlett.

Australia: Butland, Tann-Darby, Starr (Black 66), Bartlett, Cooper, Golebiowski (Ferguson 80), Peters, Youman (Casagrande 74) (Revell 87), Iannotta, Murray, Salisbury.



Joanne Butland... star Matilda keeper

### FULL RESULTS

Sun 14 March			
USA	1	Sweden	1
Norway	1	Finland	0
Denmark	1	Australia	1
China	3	Portugal	0
Tue 16 March			
USA	4	Finland	0
Norway	2	Sweden	1
Portugal	0	Australia	0
China	2	Denmark	1
Thu 18 March			
USA	2	Norway	1
Sweden	0	Finland	0
China	2	Australia	0
Denmark	5	Portugal	0
Sat 20 March - Playoffs			
7th place	Portugal	2	Finland 1
5th place	Australia	1	Sweden 1 (7-6 ps)
3rd place	Norway	2	Denmark 2 (4-1 ps)
1st place	China	2	USA 1



# SUMMER IS... ERICSSON CUP

## next round

**Friday 26 March**

**Northern Spirit v South Melbourne**

North Sydney Oval

**Saturday 27 March**

**Brisbane Strikers v Canberra Cosmos**

Suncorp Stadium

**Sunday 28 March**

**Perth Glory v Sydney Olympic**

Perth Oval

**Carlton SC v Marconi Fairfield**

Olympic Park

**Wollongong Wolves v Adelaide Sharks**

Brandon Park

**Adelaide City v Gippsland Falcons**

Hindmarsh Stadium

**Melbourne Knights v Newcastle**

Breakers

Knights Stadium

**Bye: Sydney United**

**Please note, these fixtures are supplied by Soccer Australia, and are correct at time of printing. Please check local guides in case of changes. We accept no responsibility for any late changes to fixtures, or incorrect information supplied to us.**

## RESULTS ROUND 25

Newcastle Breakers 1  
Carlton SC 0

Northern Spirit 1  
Canberra Cosmos 2

Adelaide Sharks 1  
Melbourne Knights 0

Marconi Fairfield 3  
Perth Glory 4

South Melbourne 1  
Adelaide City 1

Gippsland Falcons 0  
Wollongong Wolves 3

Sydney Utd 4  
Brisbane Strikers 3

**Bye Sydney Olympic**

## TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Melbourne	23*	14	6	3	44	23	48*
Sydney United	24	15	3	6	45	31	48
Perth Glory	23*	14	3	6	51	28	45*
Adelaide City	23	11	5	7	37	24	38
Sydney Olympic	23	11	5	7	38	27	38
Northern Spirit	23	12	2	9	31	31	38
Marconi Fairfield	23	10	3	10	42	44	33
Newcastle Breakers	23	9	6	8	23	28	33
Brisbane Strikers	23	9	5	9	33	38	32
Carlton SC	24	9	4	11	42	38	31
Wollongong Wolves	23	7	6	10	35	39	27
Adelaide Sharks	23	6	6	11	32	37	24
Melbourne Knights	23	5	5	13	26	36	20
Gippsland Falcons	23	5	5	13	14	41	20
Canberra Cosmos	24	4	2	18	19	47	14

## Quote of the Week

**"ANYONE WANT A GAME?"**

**SHARKS COACH ADRIAN SANTRAC**

**BEFORE THE KNIGHTS GAME**







# ERICSSON CUP

WEEK 28  
19-21 MARCH  
1999

## THE UPSET OF THE SEASON?

**NORTHERN SPIRIT** 1  
Kane 22  
**CANBERRA COSMOS** 2  
Magnacca 30, De Jesus 73  
At North Sydney Oval, Sydney

By Bonnie Merslades

The so-called 'bargain basement battlers' of the Ericsson Cup national soccer league, Canberra Cosmos, put on anything but a display worthy of that name against their more fancied opponents, Northern Spirit, on Friday night.

With the NSL's first-ever wedding (see separate story), and even the Hare Krishnas getting into the spirit of the Spirit outside the ground, North Sydney Oval was abuzz as usual. But most of the crowd of 10,482 would have gone home disappointed with their team's effort.

Northern Spirit coach, Graham Arnold, said after the game that he thought too many of his players were already dreaming of the semi-finals instead of concentrating on the game at hand.

"I warned them all week that (Canberra) would take it to us, but they just didn't listen," said Arnold.

Canberra Cosmos coach, Tom Sermanni, was clearly delighted.

"It was a good performance and a great result."

With referee Eddie Lennie at the helm of his second consecutive Northern Spirit home game, the home side started the game with their customary confidence and strength — traits mirrored by the supporters who felt it was not a matter of whether Northern Spirit would win, but by how many goals.

However, that it was not to be Northern Spirit's night was evident in a few tell-tale signs early in the first stanza. Canberra had three early corners and created a number of good chances; Spirit's midfield lacked incisiveness under pressure; coming back from injury after a two-week break, Kresimir Marusic was not making his usual impression; and relatively easy chances were missed by Zane, who kindly lollipopped one ball to Cosmos' goalkeeper, Vilson Knezevic and missed in a one-on-one situation and Arnold who, with an open goal after a good cross from Marusic, hit the ball onto the upper deck of the McCartney Stand. (Perhaps Arnie got a shock to receive a grass-cutter rather than a customary head high cross!).

Nonetheless, Northern Spirit kept the Cosmos under sustained pressure for the first thirty minutes, but defenders Toplica Popovich, Ivan Zelic and captain Gordon Hunter held up their end well despite some anxious moments. Northern Spirit's goal came after a nice combination from Slater and Zane which gave Zane

an opportunity to slip one under Knezevic in the 22nd minute.

In earlier times, Canberra has retreated with the combination of pressure and an early goal against them — and certainly the Northern Spirit supporters had their appetite whetted nicely. But Sermanni said one of the things he has been working on are these very situations.

"In the past we've faded after being down a goal, but tonight we came back into the game well," Sermanni said after the game.

Canberra had their just reward when former Victorian Premier League leading scorer, Anthony Magnacca, scored in the 30th minute after some smart play by the dynamic long-haired blonde, Paul Roberts, who beat the offside trap with a neatly weighted lob.

Magnacca left Henderson stranded with a flick over Henderson's head and followed through to drive into the net from point blank range.

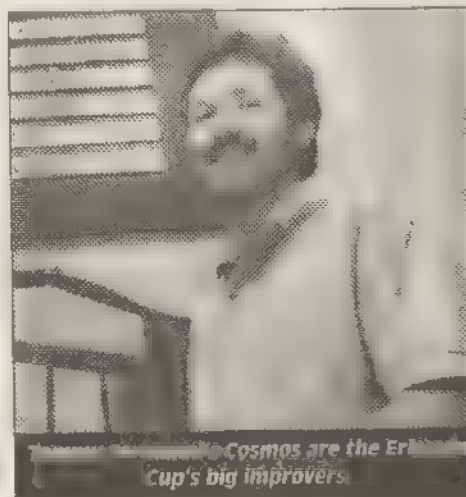
With the score level, Northern Spirit stepped up half a gear and played some attractive football, but Canberra stuck to their game plan of shutting Spirit down.

A more determined Northern Spirit emerged after half-time — no doubt after a few choice words from Arnie — but Canberra was every bit as determined also. Anything Northern Spirit could do, Canberra could do also; and both goalkeepers were tested by a series of attacking plays and set pieces.

Despite Arnold substituting Bilokapic for Mendez and bringing Matt Bingley up into a midfield role, Canberra was gaining the ascendancy across the middle of the park especially due to the tireless efforts of Roberts. He ran into space and kept ahead of the opposition throughout the game, seemingly all over the park; Northern Spirit had no-one who could match



Graham Arnold was furious after the game.



Canberra Cosmos are the Ericsson Cup's big improvers.

either his effort or his creativity. One sensed that an upset was conceivably in the making.

The small, but loyal, band of Canberra supporters who made the Friday afternoon trek up the Hume Highway to watch the game were so emboldened by their team's performance that they counter-sang to the increasingly anxious 'Alternate Bob Stenders' adjacent to the McCartney Stand, "Can you hear the Spirit sing?"

The match winner came in the 73rd minute when Ivo De Jesus angled his ground shot in off the left upright after eluding a few Spirit players and a diving Henderson after a determined run down the left.

There were a few heart-stopping moments for Canberra's fans, with Casserly hitting the post, Slater heading a rebound which skimmed the top of the crossbar and Paul Foster having a header cleared off the line. However, there were two impressive factors about Canberra's win: firstly, they kept attacking even when

### MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 10,482

Referee: Eddie Lennie

**Northern Spirit:** Henderson, Crook, Rudan, Casserly (Foster, 83m), Marusic, Slater, Arnold, Mendez (Bilokapic, 46m), Zane, Langdon, Bingley

**Canberra Cosmos:** Knezevic, Popovich, Zelic (Bull, 73m), Marona (Musitano, 78m), Magnacca, Buljan, Roberts, De Jesus, Gonzalez (Winger, 79m), Purdue, Hunter

### Votes Player of the Year

3. Roberts (CC)  
2. Magnacca (CC)  
1. Crook (NS)

ahead and secondly, the players grew in stature and resolve with the scent of victory as the game wore on.

Arnold described the result as "very disappointing" and said that the team had just about blown their chance of making the top two.

"While my objective has always been to make the Top 6, to be one or two would be even better. It makes the game against South Melbourne twice as important if that's possible."

He said it was no good winning against top teams and losing focus against lower-placed teams.

Arnold also hinted that too many Spirit players were thinking about the possibility of playing overseas and said that he had told them that, on the basis of their performance, they would be "lucky to make it to Circular Quay on the ferry".

Sermanni said he was pleased with the progress the Canberra players had made since he had taken over.

"The squad is more settled, the players are fitter and more positive. We're working hard on all aspects of our game and it is encouraging to see it have some benefit."

Graham Arnold was right to warn his players about the emerging new-look Cosmos: based on their results since Sermanni took over as coach, they would be lying in the middle of the table, only a few points out of the 6, which augurs well for next season.

In summary, Canberra were deserved winners and gave further notice of their improving form. For Northern Spirit, it was three points that got away. They will have to put the result behind them as they front-up to the slick "Stavros" of South Melbourne at North Sydney Oval next Friday.

## PORTER SPARKS SHARKS

**ADELAIDE SHARKS** 1  
Demoutzidis 33  
**MELBOURNE KNIGHTS** 0  
At Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide

By Margaret Bowden and Donald Campbell

What a turn around. A great display on the pitch and a standing ovation for the embattled Sharks players. In a night of passion, the Sharks bit the bullet in a style reminiscent of Sydney United when their club was under a similar financial cloud. Coach Adrian Santrac promoted youngsters Aaron Westervelt and Joel Porter to full game status and recalled Elias Demoutzidis from the Australian Institute of Sport.

Despite the doom and gloom forecast in the local media due to the absence of six regular 'stars', the rookies shone brightly, playing with a commitment and flair that has been lacking in some of those they replaced. Last Sunday Hindmarsh witnessed 16 year old Louis Brain scoring on debut for Adelaide City. Tonight it was 17 year old Demoutzidis who gave his team and the fans their most emotional win of the season.

This was the stuff dreams are made of.

The Sharks forced Knights' keeper John Martin into two saves within the first 30 seconds, giving notice of what was to come. Richie Alagich, Alex Castro, Corey Artone, Porter and Demoutzidis attacked ceaselessly, fed from the back by Paul Pezos and Alex Kuzmanovic.

Artone had a chance to score after 11 minutes in a one on one with Martin, but his chip went wide.

The Knights responded immediately, Ivan Jolic forcing Nathan Wildy into a diving save. Six minutes later Ice Kutlesovski sent a screamer whistling just over the bar.

Michael Reda, Paul Magdic, Zeljko Susa, Ante Deak and Ivan Kelic proved a constant danger to the Sharks, but Paul Pezos seemed to be in the way of everything, blocking shots and tackling like a veteran.

He was well backed up by Westervelt in midfield and Porter, 88.5 Coast FM Player of the Match, who was up and down the pitch like a yoyo for the full 90 minutes, foraging in attack and dispossessing the Knights in defence.

Twenty five minutes into the game the crowd rose to their feet, yelling for a penalty as Demoutzidis appeared to be upended after a

scramble in the box. Referee Shield turned down the appeal. This spurred on the Knights. Kelic slammed a shot at Wildy then Reda danced around the Sharks' defence into the box. As the fans gasped, Wildy sped off his line to prevent the close range shot.

The Sharks then had a chance from a corner, the clearance falling to Castro. Martin blocked Castro's shot, the ball again came to Castro who headed it back for Demoutzidis to shoot. Over the bar! It was only a matter of time before one went in.

Porter and Duric played a scintillating one-two down the left, finishing in a shot from Porter and a save from Martin, who sent the Knights into attack. Susa shot from close range but Wildy saved.

Three minutes later, Alagich crossed the ball in from the right to Demoutzidis who headed his shot from 10 metres down onto the goal line at the near post. Martin had no chance - 1-0 Sharks. The small but vocal crowd went crazy.

The second half mirrored the first, with plenty of scoring chances and solid goalkeeping. The best chance of this half fell to Artone, who found himself clear of the Knights defence with only

### MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 1600 (unofficial)

Referee: Mark Shield

**Adelaide Sharks:** Wildy, Alagich, Castro, Kuzmanovic, Artone, Mlosevic (Iandioro 73), Duric, Pezos, Porter, Westervelt, Demoutzidis (Kokkinopitis 87)

**Melbourne Knights:** Martin, Naslevski, Jolic, Rajner (Bannin 81), Kraljic, Susa, Deak (Colina 73), Reda, Kutlesovski, Magdic

### Players Votes of the Year:

3. Porter (Sharks)  
2. Reda (Knights)  
1. Alagich (Sharks)

Martin to beat. As he raced onto the loose ball, Martin roared out of the 18 yard area to boot it to safety.

The game was played in an excellent spirit, with no more than 3 or 4 bad tackles all night. Both teams were intent on playing the ball in their determination to score.





# ERICSSON CUP

WEEK 25  
19-21 MARCH  
1999

## TOP SIX BREAKERS?

**NEWCASTLE BREAKERS** 1  
Pryce pen 70  
**CARLTON SC** 0  
At Breakers Stadium, Newcastle

By Soccer Weekly

Last Friday night the dream of a top six finish was kept alive as the home side beat fellow top six aspirants Carlton 1-0 in front of over 4,000 at the Breakers Stadium.

Carlton however would have been kicking themselves for missing a penalty at the death. According to local media reports, the player who missed, Moreira, was not his coach's choice to take the if-fated penalty, which was placed wide of the goal.

Once again it was that veteran keeper Bob Catlin — who seems to get better as he ages — who kept the Breakers in the game with a series of great saves.

In the second minute Moreira had a shot which was

well-saved and just three minutes later a deflection off fellow Breaker Brad Wieczorek also saw 'Big Bob' at full stretch.

In the 25th minute young Breakers star Greg Owens got on the end of a Robert Shannon cross, but had a header denied by the scrambling Carlton backline, off their own line.

Not to be outdone, the ever-dangerous Moreira also had a good header, but was denied joy.

Both sides went into the break with no goals to show for their enterprise.

In the 63rd minute John Buonavoglia hit the post with a stinging drive which had keeper Dean Anastasiadis well beaten, however just seven minutes later came the decisive moment in the game.

Skilful Breaker Freddy Umlil was on hand after a goalmouth scramble to take the ball forward but Carlton defender Andrew Marth was adjudged to have handled the ball when Umlil tried to round him, and ref Brett Hugo pointed to the spot, much to the consternation of the Carlton players.

Newcastle captain Shane Pryce (one of the best defenders currently going round in the league?) coolly



Shane Pryce... another brilliant display.

slotted away the winner.

But the action did not finish there.

In the 88th minute rugged home side defender Todd McManus was red-carded for an alleged handball on the line; Moreira took the penalty and the rest was history.

After the game a relieved Newcastle were ecstatic at

### MATCH STATS

Crowd: 4,164

Referee: Brett Hugo

### TEAMS LINE-UP NOT AVAILABLE

Red  
McManus (NB)

### Votes Players of the Year

3 Pryce (NB)  
2 Catlin (NB)  
1 Moreira (C)

the three points, which keeps them in the hunt for that elusive top six.

"Very very happy, both sides were desperate for the three points. We have lost just 2 in the last 14 and Bob Catlin's shutout record is very impressive. We are just taking it one game at a time," said a Breakers official after the game.

This week the Breakers go to Melbourne Knights for what should be a rugged encounter

## SOUTH SHOT IN THE FOOT!

**SOUTH MELBOURNE** 1  
Curcija 10  
**ADELAIDE CITY** 1  
Veart 90  
At Bob Jane Stadium, Melbourne

By Dwyght Tuffnell

A last minute goal from Carl Veart gave ten-man Adelaide City a 1-1 draw at Bob Jane Stadium on Sunday night.

Veart's late equaliser means that South Melbourne are only on top of the ladder by goal difference, although they do have a game in hand over their nearest rival, Sydney United.

Adelaide City played for an hour of the match with ten men after the controversial send-off of Angelo Costanzo.

Costanzo was deemed to be the last defender by referee Simon Micallef when he brought down Michael Curcija on the edge of the penalty area in the 30th minute.

Curcija had barely brought Vaughan Coveny's through ball under control and whether he was in a

goalscoring position or not was debatable, as Milan Ivanovic was one side to Curcija and Costanzo the other.

Zebbras coach, Zoran Matic, was furious after the match with Micallef's decision, saying that he was "sixty metres behind the play".

Ange Postecoglou, South Melbourne coach, was disappointed with the outcome of the game.

"We did things well for 90 minutes and then for that last minute, our concentration lapsed" said Postecoglou.

"We threw it away. We had chances to finish them off earlier, I just hope that this doesn't come back to haunt us later in the year."

Played on a rain-soaked pitch, the game never reached the standards that these two teams would usually provide.

The Zebbras had the first opportunity but the conditions of the ground brought Louis Brain undone.

Angelo Costanzo's cross had landed perfectly for the young rookie only for the heavy surface to catch his feet as he was about to strike at goal.

The slippery turf did have some advantages though. South's Goran Lozanovski was the first to shot from distance in the 7th minute with a shot from around 25 metres that forced City 'keeper Jason Petkovic into a scrambling save.

South went in front in the 16th minute, another goal coming from the prolific Coveny-Curcija partnership.

Coveny chased down a clearance from Milan Ivanovic that was intended to go over the line for a corner. The Kiwi then crossed into the middle where Paul Trimboli missed the ball but Curcija, at the back, did not.

Lozanovski seemed determined to score a goal from long range, again coming close in the 23rd minute with an astonishing effort from 35 metres that beat Petkovic all ends up, the City custodian saved by his crossbar.

Curcija should have doubled his tally in the 76th minute when he snuck in behind the Zebbras defence after a great build-up involving both Coveny and Trimboli.

But 'keeper Petkovic spread himself well, leaving Curcija not much to aim at.

His brother Michael then showed that he can keep a bit too with a brave and superbly timed save at the feet of Veart in the 89th minute to seemingly make the three points safe.

But although Veart had warned the South defence a minute earlier, they weren't going to get off as lightly this time around.

Damian Mori had made a penetrating run through into the penalty area before releasing Veart who slammed the ball high into the roof of the net.

"It's the second time this season we've had an opposition team down to ten men at home, been a goal up, and let them back into the game" Postecoglou lamented.

"Both teams were playing under the same conditions. For 90 minutes we were fine, so we couldn't blame the conditions.

### MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 8,169

Referee: Simon Micallef

South Melbourne: M.Petkovic, Iosifidis, De Amicis, Oric, Panopoulos, Coveny (Tsekis 78), Trimboli, Curcija, Lozanovski (Polak 78), Goutzioulis (Mustafa 90), Liparoti.

Adelaide City: J.Petkovic, Ivanovic, Tobin, Talladira (Mennillo 78), Mori, Veart, Costanzo, Hassell, Dodd, Kim (Hawryluk 78), Brain.

### Yellows:

South Melbourne: Lozanovski (31).  
Adelaide City: Talladira (66)

### Reds:

Adelaide City: Costanzo (30)

### Votes for Player of the Year

3: J. Petkovic (AC)  
2: Lozanovski (SM)  
1: Liparoti (SM)

"We've got no excuses. We just shot ourselves in the foot" ended Postecoglou.

## FRANKEN REKINDLES HIS GLORY DAYS

**MARCONI FAIRFIELD** 3  
Awaritefe 35, 89, Trajanovski 76  
**PERTH GLORY** 4  
Boutsianis 7, 61, Garcia 10,  
Kalogeracos 87  
At Marconi Stadium, Sydney

By John Economos

Anthony Franken, Perth Glory's ex-Socceroo goalkeeper, almost single handedly sent Marconi crashing to a 3-4 defeat last Saturday night further dimming their flickering hopes of a top six finish.

Franken, 35, made no less than four point-blank saves to deny Marconi urgently needed goals after the West Australians had raced to a 0-2 lead in the first 10 minutes.

Glory's Robbie Trajanovski, in the seventh minute, floated a free kick into Marconi's box to find industrious midfielder Con Boutsianis. The eager Boutsianis on the back post scored with an exceptionally strong downward header that was so powerfully struck, it completely bounced over Marconi's 'keeper Ante Covic.

Three minutes later Glory again was in, this time through mobile midfielder Michael Garcia. From deep in his own half Garcia knocked it wide to the right to Trajanovski, then proceeded to gallop 50 metres upfield and into Marconi's box to receive the return ball and brilliantly flick it into the target with his 'wrong foot'.

The hard working striker Francis Awaritefe, missing in action through suspension, made a superb comeback for Marconi by scoring two goals, the first in the 36th minute and his second five minutes into stoppage time.

Left back Brendan Renaud gave Marconi much needed width and twice fired well on target, but twice Renaud was denied joy by excellent Franken saves.

Three minutes into injury time of the first half Awaritefe himself found Franken unpassable as his deflecting shot was also deflected by Franken's outstretched and lifesaving boot.

Awaritefe 'fed' Renaud in the 59th minute to fire well on target a right footed drive that was heading inside the far post, but a fully stretched Franken again made a magnificent save.

On the hour mark Boutsianis nailed in his second and Perth's third goal after the intelligent Bobby Despotovski screamed down the flank and crossed into Marconi's box leaving it to Boutsianis the task of

delicately clipping over the top of Covic's fully stretched body.

With just 19 minutes left of play, Marconi's coach Frank Farina stripped down and brought himself on.

Repeatedly Farina two-touched the ball to give fast fluid service up front to his attack-men whilst his vision was uncanny.

Five minutes after Farina's entry, Marconi scored their second goal through constructive striker Kris Trajanovski who, from 20 metres blasted, a low drive that ricocheted in off the base of the left upright.

Two minutes from time Marconi's sweeper Robbie Hooker in attempting to cut out a Scotty Miller cross from the left towards substitute Vas Kalogeracos, steered the ball past his own goalkeeper Covic and into the net.

Five minutes into stoppage time striker Awaritefe scored his second of the match and Marconi's third as he nailed the target following a silky through ball into space from his coach Farina.

Star performers for Marconi were Awaritefe, Trajanovski and Renaud whilst Perth were very well served by Franken, Boutsianis, Trajanovski and Garcia.

Glory's German coach Bernd Stange, later reflected. "It was not normal to need four goals to win an away game, but the result is most important as we knew Marconi were desperate for a win."

Meanwhile Frank Farina said: "While there's hope there's a chance. Our corners were all quality but Anthony (Glory's goalkeeper Franken) saved them all very well, but we will bounce back I'm sure. There first

### MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 4,904

Referee: G.Connelly.

Marconi Fairfield: Covic, Gibson (Farina 71st), M.Babic, Hooker, Longo, Renaud, Phillips (Zoric 61), Maloney, Smith, Awaritefe, Trajanovski.

Perth Glory: Franken, Trajanovski, Wilkinson (Hartwell 46), Hay, Circati, Garcia, Boutsianis (Kalogeracos 85), Strudwick, Miller, Edwards, Despotovski (G.Naven 77).

### Players Votes of the Year

3: Franken (Perth Glory)  
2: Awaritefe (Marconi)  
1: Boutsianis (Perth Glory)

goal was a fundamental mistake by us to even allow the cross to come in and then we found ourselves down 0-2 in the first 10 minutes, but we pushed the ball around and forward well but had to chase to score.

"You just can't give away four goals at home and if it takes two goals to wake us up and start playing is just not good enough. They had about six shots and scored four," ended a disappointed Farina.





# ERICSSON CUP

WEEK 25  
19-21 MARCH  
1999

## WOLVES' LATE SEASON RESURGENCE

**GIPPSLAND FALCONS** 0  
**WOLLONGONG WOLVES** 3  
Younnis 16, 79, Masi 44  
At Mobil Park, Gippsland

By Damian Tripodi

**A** physically stronger, taller and more experienced Wollongong defeated undermanned Gippsland Falcons by three goals to nil in their Round 25 NSL encounter at Mobil Park on Sunday.

Through either suspensions or injuries to key players, the Gippsland team was decimated and coach Stuart Munro had to rely on the services of several inexperienced young players from the youth team to make the numbers.

"We only played with the basic essentials," stated Munro after the game. "We can make excuses, the defence was in shambles, in the first half we had 70 per cent of the play."

The game was played in difficult atmospheric conditions due to incessant rain. The Wolves adapted better to the conditions, basically to run the ball wide,

relying on crosses with runners going down the middle for support.

The Falcons, on the other hand, badly lacked strike power. Whilst often winning the ball in midfield were unable to capitalise up front, sorely missing the services of regular strikers Marko Perinovic and Brian Macnicol.

Even the normally solid Gippsland defence was in disarray with "The General" Jeff Hopkins and Olyroo Levent Osman, both missing through accumulation of demerit points.

Despite the conditions, the game was fast, action packed and most entertaining, with both sides creating opportunities.

The visitors opened their scoring account at the 16th minute when Esala Masi, from the right sent a good diagonal shot aimed at Raymond Younis who headed the ball into the net.

The goal served to shake the Gippslanders into action. They lifted their work rate with some good build ups and shots at goal, albeit from far out.

Two excellent chances for the home side went begging at the 23rd when Sasha Becvinovski, having received a ball, went one-on-one with the goalkeeper Daniel Beltrame and the youngster pulled off a miraculous save.

Five minutes later, Hastie was the protagonist again.

This time he served new player Sandy Robertson who shot towards goal, Becvinovski flicked the ball on, but Beltrame saved well.

Robertson, although lacking match practice showed the class which saw him play Scottish football.

Whilst the Falcons had the upper hand for most of the first half, the shots at goal were equal at four apiece, however it was Wollongong who capitalised. Two minutes before half time, a through ball came in the direction of Younis, and he tapped it past keeper Bojo Jevdevic, but Claudio Canosa saved it off the line with a spectacular "scissors" kick. One minute later, a well directed low cross from Anthony Surjan found the head of Masi, who, with space and time slotted the ball into the net.

The second half was very much an end-to-end affair with both sides trying to create chances for goal. Michael Brooks shot for Wollongong at the 51st minute but the crossbar and Gerald Quennet 73rd minute shot curled in only to scrape the bar on its way out.

At the 79th minute, Younis took advantage of a goal mouth mistake and lack of communication by two Falcons defenders and scored the visitors' third.

Although the Falcons peppered Beltrame's goal, the only clear cut chance of the second half when, with just minutes to the end, Canosa's header from a Luke

### MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 1,531

Referee: Wayne Dada

Gippsland Falcons: Jevdevic, Gotis, Bell, Robertson, Hutchinson, Canosa, Vargas, Hastie, Puka (McDonald 57), Becvinovski 77), Katz (Mitroulas 79).

Wollongong Wolves: Beltrame, Souris (Spencer 83), Stanton, Horsley, Brooks, Surjan, Dimoski (Simozic 80), Younis, Langan, (Masi 69), Reid.

### Yellows:

Wollongong Wolves: Souris 20, Stanton 38, Dimoski 77  
Gippsland Falcons: Vargas 77

### Votes Player of the Year

3: Younis (WW)  
2: Souris (WW)  
1: Beltrame (WW)

Cheney assist hit the side of the net.

Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos stated that he was happy not to have conceded a goal. "We played youngsters and it worked well," stated the coach.

## SEVEN GOAL THRILLER AT EDENSOR

**SYDNEY UNITED** 4  
Ardone 8, Barrett 10, Burns 56, Berry 71  
**BRISBANE STRIKERS** 3  
Harris 30, Tollenaere 44, McLaren 77  
At Edensor Park, Sydney

By John Vrtaric

**D**avid Mitchell continues to conjure up magic for his depleted Sydney United. For this match the absence of attacking tyros, Mile Sterjovski and Joel Griffiths, on duty with the Australian Youth team, was exacerbated by the non-availability of attackers Abbas Saad and Nathan Day.

Mitchell had to resort to unorthodox means to find a remedy for his dilemma — who to play as striker. He came up with the unexpected — diminutive, but super quick, Danny Townsend was elected to act as the lonesome spearhead.

This choice was covered by the selection of two strikers amongst the team's substitutes — experienced Joe Caleta and rookie Daniel Kukucka, the leading goal scorer from the club's youth team. Neither was required as the strategy proved to be a resounding success.

The hot weather, once again, showed why summer soccer should not be played in the afternoon as a small crowd greeted the players, although, surprisingly, not as small as United's previous paltry two thousand attendance against sister club Melbourne Knights.

The trend of the match was set as early as the second minute when a defensive clearance found Olyroo Jacob Burns who immediately released the ball down the right to Townsend whose speed was too much for Steve Laybutt, as it was for the rest of the game.

Townsend took the ball toward the penalty box where he returned the ball to Burns whose shot, with the outside of his right foot, was too high to trouble Clint Bolton.

The match exploded in a two-minute spell with United scoring two goals before the tenth minute.

In the eighth minute another defensive clearance from sweeper Richard Plesa landed in the path of Townsend on the right who, again, sped past Laybutt taking the ball inside the penalty box but this time he took the ball towards the bye line and cut it back towards the centre.

One of Townsend's midfield support, Burns was there first and calmly slotted the ball inside the near post past the wrong footed Bolton.

Worse was to follow for the Strikers in the tenth minute when they failed to clear a corner. Steve Berry back headed the ball from the right toward the far post when the ball bounced off Jeremy Harris and onward

toward the corner of the penalty box where David Barrett was lurking.

The high bounce of the ball was just right for the veteran whose powerful header looped over Bolton into the far corner of the net for a two-goal lead to United.

Another combination between Burns and Townsend in the thirteenth minute produced another opportunity for United. A headed pass from Townsend to Burns saw the latter cleverly flicked the ball over Laybutt and head towards goal.

Finding himself without adequate support, Burns decided to shoot from the edge of the penalty box but his well struck shot was well saved by Bolton.

The Strikers came back into the game with the midfield winning more possession and had their first clear scoring opportunity in the 17th minute.

Kasey Wehrman won the ball in midfield and quickly relayed to Des Hughes on the right.

Hughes dragged the ball inside a defender and headed towards the penalty box — rather than play towards his support he decided to take a shot himself with the outside of his right foot. Although well struck, the shot was off target and didn't necessitate any activity from the goalkeeper, Mike Gibson.

Wehrman was in the action again four minutes later when one his dipping, havoc creating, corners reached the head of Harris no more than six metres distance from the goal line.

His downward header was hit with force and looked headed for goal but for the outstretched hands of Gibson who guided it away to safety.

That man Wehrman was to the fore again as he orchestrated the opening goal for the Strikers in the 30th minute. His chip into the box was deflected off Velimir Kupresak into the path of Harris who swept it into the net past Gibson.

The Strikers continued with the greater possession for the rest of the half as United withdrew to defend their lead. They gained a deserved equaliser with an unusual goal a minute before the climax of the first half.

A move down the Strikers' left delivered the ball to Stuart McLaren deep in United's half. His early cross found Reece Tollenaere and Joe Vrkic on their own on the near post. As they tussled for the ball Tollenaere attempted to turn his man by dragging the ball with his back towards the United goal, but as he attempted his intricate manoeuvre he dragged the ball past a shocked Gibson and into the goal for the equaliser.

Having finished the stronger in the first half Strikers were expected to continue in the same vein in the second half but it was United who took the initiative.

An initial ten-minute lull was broken in the 56th minute when a simple goal gave United the lead for the second time.

A free kick wide on United's right seemed to pose no danger but the chip from Ardone to the near post saw

Burns outjump his marker, Chay Hews, and head the ball past Bolton.

A couple of free kicks, in the 59th and 60th minute, from Meredith posed some danger for the United defence but they escaped without harm as one shot was too high and the second, a header from McLaren went wide.

Another ten minutes of amiable football produced little before United killed off the Strikers with their third goal in the 71st minute.

Another attack down United's left seemed to be stalling with Michael Santalab boxed into a corner. He outwitted his marker and was able to produce quality cross, deep to the far post.

Berry made a tremendous twenty-metre sprint and was able to just reach the ball and head it back towards the goal. The header looped over Bolton for the second time and, again, landed behind him in the far corner of the goal to give United a two-goal cushion.

Two minutes later Walter Ardone won the ball in

### MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 3,327

Referee: E. Brazzale

Sydney United: Gibson, Barrett, Santalab (Moric 83), Plesa, Kupresak, Vrkic, Bennett, Ardone, Berry, Burns, Townsend (Caleta 87).

Brisbane Strikers: Bolton, Gwynne, Meredith, Zoncich, Laybutt, Hughes (Knee 65), Hews, Wehrman, Harris, Tollenaere, McLaren (Harper 83).

### Yellows:

Strikers: McLaren 48

### Votes Player of the Year

3: Townsend (Sydney United)  
2: Burns (Sydney United)  
1: Wehrman (Brisbane Strikers)



Walter Ardone opened the scoring for the Pumas.

midfield and released it to the unmarked Townsend who sped towards goal. The chasing Laybutt was able to suck out a long leg to divert the ball to Bolton to avert the danger.

In the 77th minute Wehrman beat two defenders in the centre of the United's half and chipped the ball perfectly between two defenders onto the head of McLaren. The striker deftly headed the ball past Gibson's left into the top corner.

The last few minutes remained scoreless, although action packed but neither team produced a clear chance with the score remaining 4-3 to the home team.

Both coaches were happy with the performance of their team although Strikers' John Kosmina was unhappy with the way his team conceded the first two goals.

"We scored three goals away from home but conceded two soft goals which cost us the game", Kosmina said.

David Mitchell was very happy with his team's performance — he was particularly pleased with the performance of Townsend who was only selected in the team on the morning of the match.

Townsend was the pick of the players as he continually stretched the Strikers' defence with his well timed runs and speed. The midfield of Burns, Berry and Ardone were outstanding and Mitchell was pleased with their work rate as much as their skill.

Wehrman was the Strikers' best player — although he gave away too many balls too easily he was always looking to receive the ball and create opportunities for his team-mates. Kosmina was happy with Wehrman and seems happy to retain him in his favoured midfield role in the future.



# National Youth League

Competition Organised and Proudly Sponsored by Prestige Video Productions  
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## SOUTHERN DIVISION

### Round 25

Bulleen Inter	.....2	Melbourne Knights	.....3
Albury Wodonga	.....0	Carlton	.....4
South Melbourne v VIS (Match not played)			
Gippsland Falcons v Bye			

### League Ladder

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carlton	19	13	3	3	53	20	42
South Melbourne	19	11	3	5	33	19	36
Melbourne Knights	20	9	3	8	40	37	30
VIS	16	8	4	4	32	26	28
Gippsland Falcons	18	7	2	9	31	30	23
Bulleen Inter Kings	17	6	2	9	24	33	20
Albury Wodonga	19	1	1	17	18	66	4

### ROUND 26

#### Thursday 25 March

Bulleen Inter v South Melbourne,  
(Veneto Club, 7 pm)

#### Saturday 27 March

VIS v Gippsland Falcons,  
(Grange Reserve, 3.30 pm)

#### Sunday 28 March

Carlton v Melbourne Knights,  
(Olympic Park, 1 pm)  
Bye v Albury Wodonga

### LEADING SOUTHERN SCORERS

Andrew Mashorian	South Melb	15
Scott McDonald	VIS	7
Tony Ouliaris	Carlton	7
Erhan Bayraktar	South Melb	7

### Wednesday 31 March

South Melbourne v VIS,  
(Bob Jane Stadium, 5 pm)

**Southern Summary ...** There were only two matches played in the Southern Division this week, with Melbourne Knights recording a three-two win over Bulleen Inter at the Veneto Club on Thursday and Carlton having a four-nil away win at Myrtleford against Albury Wodonga.

The only goal of the first half in the Bulleen-Knights game came from defender Michael Bosevski of the Knights after 41 minutes. Xzehair Sulemani equalised for Bulleen in 49 and nine minutes later Mino Orlando converted a penalty to put the home team in front.

Serhat Hulusi got his second goal in successive games putting the Knights on terms again in 79 and with four minutes left to play young Robert Senes, playing his first game for the youth team after being promoted from the juniors scored the winner to give himself a game to remember.

Carlton had four-nil win at Albury with the goals being spread among four players: Debevc, Iacobaccia (recently picked up from Bulleen), Impiombato and Erdogan.

South Melbourne and the VIS was postponed and Gippsland Falcons had the bye.

**Northern Summary ...** By contrast, in the Northern Division ten games were played since last report. Going back to last week NSWIS beat ACTAS by five goals to one.

Then on Wednesday, it went down to Wollongong Wolves by two goals to one in a Round 2 catch up game. Tallan Martin scored for the Institute and Graeme Goodfellow and Saso Petrovski for the Wolves.

Also on Wednesday Marconi Fairfield downed Sydney United two-nil.

Luke Tomich scored one goal, (the other was not available). This was a Round 17 catch-up.

Round 25 got under way on Friday with a high-quality one-all draw between the Newcastle Breakers and the AIS. Tony Majurovski equalised for the Breakers after Kevo Gulesserian scored his 18th of the season for the AIS.

On Saturday Northern Spirit downed the ACTAS by four goals to nil. Daniel Watkins scored twice at either end of the game, in six and 76 minutes. Antonio Faria and Paul Foster scored in 23 and 25 minutes respectively.

Marconi Fairfield beat Sydney United Colts two-one, with Mark Haggard getting both goals for Marconi. Frank Iorfino scored the only goal for the Colts.

Wollongong Wolves had a five-one win over Northern Spirit Colts, the highlight was a hat-trick by Steve Karavatakis. Paul Tuterevski also scored.

QAS hung on to beat Sydney United by three goals to two. Steven Bosevski and Steven Jordan scored for United in 53 and 39 minutes respectively. For QAS it was Owen Filewood after half an hour, John McKain in 35 minutes and the winner from Lawrence Drake in 78.

NSWIS then hammered Wollongong Wolves Colts by six goals to one, but you would not have imagined this result after the Colts led one-nil at the break. Brendan Santalab scored for the Institute. At half time Nuhel Arrarte came off the bench to be clearly man of the match, converting two penalties and contributing a sensational volley in the 76th minute.

Simon Catanzaro opened for the Institute in 50 minutes, Alex Leris scored a rare goal to make it three, after the first of Arrarte's spot kicks.

Dylan McAllister got a nice placed header after good build-up for the fourth goal.

On Sunday Sydney Olympic Academy downed Marconi Colts by three goals to one, two coming from Chri Seitis and one from Joe Dia.

Finally in the clash of the giants between Sydney Olympic and Marconi Fairfield, played at Marconi Stadium, Olympic dominated, missed many chances but eventually ran out three-one winners.

The goals came from John Karavatakis, Carlos Gonzalez and Adrian Cervinski, but it could have been more.

## NORTHERN DIVISION

### Round 17

#### Wednesday 17 March

NSWIS	.....1	Wollongong Wolves	.....2
Sydney United	.....0	Marconi Fairfield	.....2

### Round 25

#### Friday 19 March

Newcastle Breakers	.....1	AIS	.....1
Northern Spirit	.....4	ACTAS	.....0
Marconi Fairfield	.....2	Sydney United Colts	.....1
Northern Spirit Colts	.....1	Wollongong Wolves	.....5
Sydney United	.....2	QAS	.....3
Wollongong Wolves Colts	.....1	NSWIS	.....6
Sydney Olympic Academy	.....3	Marconi Fairfield Colts	.....1
Sydney Olympic	.....3	Marconi Fairfield	.....0

#### Wednesday 24 March

Sydney United Colts v Marconi Fairfield Colts  
(Marconi Stadium, 6.30pm, Round 16)

### League Ladder

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AIS	24	17	6	1	86	15	57
Marconi Fairfield	23	16	5	2	75	20	53
Sydney Olympic	23	17	2	4	74	20	53
NSWIS	23	15	3	5	61	23	48
Newcastle Breakers	23	14	5	4	53	24	47
Northern Spirit	23	15	2	6	46	21	47
Wollongong Wolves	23	14	2	7	61	27	44
QAS	22	12	1	9	59	38	37
Sydney United	24	8	4	12	42	42	28
Marconi Fairfield Colts	21	5	4	12	20	37	19
ACTAS	23	4	3	16	30	64	15
Sydney United Colts	22	4	1	17	22	68	13
Northern Spirit Colts	22	3	3	16	20	86	12
Sydney Olympic Academy	23	2	4	17	18	88	10
Wollongong Wolves Colts	23	1	3	19	15	109	6

### ROUND 16

#### Wednesday 24 March

Sydney United Colts v Marconi Fairfield Colts,  
(Marconi Stadium, 6.30 pm)

### ROUND 26

#### Saturday 27 March

Northern Spirit v Sydney Olympic Academy,  
(Christie Park, 4 pm)

QAS v ACTAS,  
(SunCorp Stadium, 4.30 pm)

Sydney United Colts v Sydney Olympic,  
(Edensor Park, 5 pm)

AIS v Marconi Fairfield,  
(AIS Soccer Field, 7 pm)

NSWIS v Newcastle Breakers,  
(Valentine Park, 6 pm)

### Sunday 28 March

Wollongong Wolves v Wollongong Wolves Colts,  
(Brandon Park, 4 pm)

Marconi Fairfield Colts v Northern Spirit Colts,  
(Marconi Stadium, 5 pm)

### LEADING NORTHERN SCORERS

Mark Haggard	Marconi	20
Kevo Gulesserian	AIS	18
Simon Catanzaro	NSWIS	18
Daniel Kukucka	Sydney United	14
Elias Demourtzidis	AIS	13
Russell Miner	QAS	11

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# NSW SUPER LEAGUE

## TOP TWO THRILLER

Second played first in the tie of the round at Nineveh Field on Sunday night, with the newly promoted Fairfield Bulls playing Macarthur Rams.

The Bulls have caused some upsets already this season, and did so again in this Round Seven match, defeating the previously unbeaten Rams 3-2 in a thriller.

Matthew Borg gave the home side a 1-0 lead after 13 minutes, before David Reid finished well to make it 1-1. Borg was then brought down in the penalty area after 25 minutes, but mandful that he missed a spot kick the week before against Eastern Suburbs, stepped aside to allow Jason Falzon to bury the ball into the back of the net.

Fairfield continued to dominate the game and deservedly made it 3-1 after 50 minutes, courtesy of a solo effort by Mark Hoenselaars. Eric Williams pulled a goal back for the Rams with just seven minutes left, but despite some anxious moments the Bulls held on for a victory that moves them to equal first with their opponents.

Ryde held Blacktown to a 1-1 draw at Cromer Park, Paul Watkins canceling out an Aaron Holst strike, while Canterbury Marrickville defeated Leichhardt Tigers 2-0 with goals from Jose Mendes and Steve Christofordis.

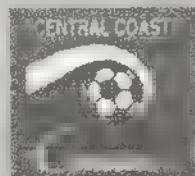
Their were high scoring games at Melita Stadium were Parramatta Eagles put five past bottom club Eastern Suburbs, and at Jensen Park where the home side Bankstown City Lions beat Sutherland 4-1.

The Eagles had Grant Bard to thank for a hat-trick against Eastern Suburbs, while Bankstown, despite losing Michael Hawrynsuk last Friday to Zoran Matic's Adelaide City, were too strong for the Sharks, who had Jeff Summers sent off on the half hour mark.

Bonnyrigg White Eagles inflicted the Central Coast's second 2-1 home defeat in the last two matches in a game of two halves at Plum Park.

The White Eagles dominated the first half, scoring twice and creating many other chances that left even the Coasties Coach Allan Bourke admitting, "They were awesome."

Goals in the first 22 minutes from Colin Luff and Javier Mancino made it look an easy outing for Bonnyrigg, but the Coasties hit back in the second period through a spectacular Aron Brnskin goal. Despite creating some good chances to equalise, the Coasties couldn't snatch an equaliser.



## FERNANDO GRECO

With Ben Cobby

Fernando Greco, Blacktown City's athletic goalkeeper, has briefly experienced professional soccer and is eager for more.

Born 24 years ago in Argentina, Fernando began playing football when he was five years old. Always a keeper, he spent several seasons in the juniors at famous Argentinian club Rosario Central. Fernando came to Australia with his family he was 16 and spent a year at Toronto Awaba Soccer Club in Newcastle before joining the Parramatta Eagles.

In 1995 he was selected to tour South Korea with a NSW U/23 representative side, and then had a short stint in Paraguay at First Division club Guarani. Contractual problems curtailed Fernando's overseas career, but he retains fine memories of South American football where he played alongside Orlando Chilavert, brother of brilliant Paraguayan international Jose Luis.

Away from the pitch, Fernando works as a builder and happily calls himself a family man. He lists Gabriel Mendez as his most admired Australian soccer player, but this could be because Gabriel is married to his sister.

After three years of starring at Blacktown, Fernando has made his name as one of the state's top keepers. With time still on his side, sooner or later his burning ambition to be a professional footballer will be fulfilled.

## NSW SOCCER FEDERATION SUPER LEAGUE



ROUND

EIGHT

Saturday 27 March

Blacktown City Demons v Bonnyrigg White Eagles

Gabbie Stadium, 6:00pm

Central Coast v Bankstown City Lions

Plum Park, 6:00pm

Sutherland Sharks v Fairfield Bulls

Seymour Shaw Field, 7:00pm

Macarthur Rams v Parramatta Eagles

Lynwood Park, 7:00pm

Sunday 28 March

Eastern Suburbs v Canterbury-Marrickville

Wentworth Park, 3:00pm

Leichhardt Tigers v Ryde City

Lambert Park, 3:00pm

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## SUPER LEAGUE

### ROUND 7

	1ST	U/21	U/16
Central Coast vs Bonnyrigg WE	1-2	1-0	2-0
Fairfield Bulls vs Macarthur Rams	3-2	1-1	3-1
C'bury M'ville vs Leichhardt Tigers	2-0	1-0	3-0
B'stown C Lions vs S'tland Sharks	4-1	1-2	2-1
P'matta Eagles vs Eastern Sube	7pm	3-1	2-3
Ryde City vs Blacktown City	1-1	4-2	0-2

### FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Macarthur Rams	7	5	1	1	16	9	7	16
Fairfield Bulls	7	5	1	1	15	10	5	16
Blacktown C Demons	7	4	1	2	12	6	6	13
Bonnyrigg WE	7	4	1	2	17	12	5	13
Bankstown C Lions	7	4	0	3	17	13	4	12
Canterbury M'ville	7	3	2	2	14	9	5	11
Leichhardt Tigers	7	3	1	3	12	10	2	10
Parramatta Eagles	6	2	1	3	5	6	-3	7
Central Coast	7	2	1	4	8	14	-6	7
Ryde City	7	1	3	3	10	13	-3	6
Sutherland Sharks	7	1	1	5	8	19	-11	4
Eastern Suburbs	6	0	1	5	6	17	-11	1

### UNDER 21

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Parramatta Eagles	7	4	2	1	17	10	7	14
Canterbury M'ville	7	4	1	2	13	6	7	13
Macarthur Rams	7	4	1	2	15	10	5	13
Bonnyrigg WE	7	4	0	3	10	5	5	12
Central Coast	7	3	2	2	11	12	-1	11
Ryde City	7	3	1	3	16	11	5	10
Blacktown C Demons	7	3	1	3	14	12	2	10
Sutherland Sharks	7	3	1	3	9	12	-3	10
Fairfield Bulls	7	3	1	3	8	12	-4	10
Eastern Suburbs	7	3	0	4	8	11	-3	9
Bankstown City Lions	7	1	1	5	7	16	-9	4
Leichhardt Tigers	7	1	1	5	9	20	-11	4

## UNDER 18

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Macarthur Rams	7	5	0	2	11	6	5	15
Canterbury M'ville	7	4	2	1	15	10	5	14
Parramatta Eagles	7	4	1	2	24	8	16	13
Eastern Suburbs	7	4	1	2	14	9	5	13
Blacktown C Demons	7	3	3	1	12	8	4	12
Leichhardt Tigers	7	3	2	2	6	6	0	11
Central Coast	7	3	1	3	11	10	1	10
Bankstown City Lions	7	3	0	4	13	17	-4	9
Ryde City	7	2	1	4	7	11	-4	7
Bonnyrigg WE	7	1	2	4	5	11	-6	5
Sutherland Sharks	7	1	2	4	5	12	-7	5
Fairfield Bulls	7	1	1	5	6	21	-15	4

## SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

### ROUND 3

	G/13G/14G/15G/16
Sydney Utd v L'hardt Tigers	0-3 1-0 1-2 3-2
GI'ville Horn v P'matta Eagles	2-2 2-2 0-0 1-0
Eastern Sube v Macarthur Rams	0-0 2-1 3-1 1-0
Marconi F'field v Southern Dis	1-3 2-4 3-1 4-3
S'tland Sharks v N'castle Breakers	1-5 0-2 4-0 0-2
Manly Warringah v Central Coast	0-2 0-1 3-1 2-1
Southern Branch v Blacktown City	0-5 2-1 0-7 1-6
W'gong Wolves v Sydney Olympic	2-1 1-0 3-0 1-1

### UNDER 13

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Blacktown City D	3	3	0	0	18	0	18	9
Southern Districts	3	3	0	0	8	2	6	9
Wollongong Wolves	3	2	1	0	9	3	6	7
Sydney Olympic	3	2	0	1	12	3	9	6
Newcastle Breakers	3	2	0	1	9	5	4	6
Leichhardt Tigers	3	2	0	1	5	3	2	6
Parramatta Eagles	3	1	1	1	8	5	3	4
Marconi Fairfield	3	1	1	1	5	8	-3	4

Gladesville Horn Ass	3	1	1	1	5	8	-3	4
Macarthur Rams	3	0	3	0	2	2	0	3
Sydney United	3	1	0	2	4	6	-2	3
Central Coast	3	1	0	2	3	14	-11	3
Sutherland Sharks	3	0	1	2	2	8	-6	1
Eastern Suburbs	3	0	1	2	2	9	-7	1
Southern Branch	3	0	1	2	1	12	-11	1
Manly Warr Dolphins	3	0	0	3	1	9	-8	0

### UNDER 14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Southern Districts	3	3	0	0	9	2	7	9
Sydney United	3	3	0	0	7	3	4	9
Newcastle Breakers	3	3	0	0	5	1	4	9
Wollongong Wolves	3	3	0	0	6	3	3	9
Parramatta Eagles	3	2	1	0	8	4	4	7
Sydney Olympic	3	2	0	1	10	1	9	6
GI'ville Hornsby Ass	3	1	1	1	4	4	0	4
Blacktown City D	3	1	0	2	4	4	0	3
Marconi Fairfield	3	1	0	2	7	8	-1	3
Southern Branch	3	1	0	2	4	6	-2	3
Sutherland Sharks	3	1	0	2	1	3	-2	3
Eastern Suburbs	3	1	0	2	4	8	-4	3
Central Coast	3	1	0	2	1	10	-9	3
Leichhardt Tigers	3	0	0	3	1	4	-3	0
Macarthur Rams	3	0	0	3	1	4	-3	0
Manly Warr Dolphins	3	0	0	3	0	6	-6	0

### UNDER 15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
GI'ville Hornsby Ass	3	3	0	0	13	2	11	9
Blacktown City Demons	3	3	0	0	11	0	11	9
Marconi Fairfield	3	3	0	0	9	1	8	9
Sydney Olympic	3	2	0	1	10	5	5	6
Southern Districts	3	2	0	1	8	4	4	6
Wollongong Wolves	3	2	0	1	7	5	2	6
Leichhardt Tigers	3	2	0	1	5	5	0	6
Newcastle Breakers	3	1	0	2	6	5	1	3
Sutherland Sharks	3	1	0	2	5	4	1	3
Sydney United	3	1	0	2	5	5	0	3
Parramatta Eagles	3	1	0	2	3	6	-3	3
Eastern Suburbs	3	1	0	2	3	11	-8	3

Manly Warr Dolphins	3	1	0	2	3	12	-9	3
Macarthur Rams	3	1	0	2	3	6	-3	3
Central Coast	3	0	0	3	3	11	-8	0
Southern Branch	3	0	0	3	2	15	-13	0

### UNDER 16

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	Pts
Marconi Fairfield	3	3	0	0	9	4	5	9
Newcastle Breakers	3	3	0	0	7	2	5	9
Sydney Olympic	3	2	1	0	8	3	5	7
Blacktown C Demons	3	2	0	1	9	2	7	6
Sydney United	3	2	0	1	6	4	2	6
Leichhardt Tigers	3	2	0	1	5	3	2	6
Southern Districts	3	1	1	1	8	6	0	4
Wollongong Wolves	3	1	1	1	3	3	0	4
Parramatta Eagles	3	1	0	2	6	2	4	3
Manly Warr Dolphins	3	1	0	2	5	7	-2	3
GI'ville Hornsby Ass	3	1	0	2	2	4	-2	3
Southern Branch	3	1	0	2	3	10	-7	3
Eastern Suburbs	3	1	0	2	1	4	-3	3
Sutherland Sharks	3	0	2	1	2	4	-2	2
Macarthur Rams	3	0	1	2	2	5	-3	1
Central Coast	3	0	0	3	2	8	-6	0

### COMBINED YOUTH LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	Pts
Southern Districts	12	9	1	2	31	14	17	28
Blacktown C Demons	12	9	0	3	42	8	36	27
Newcastle Breakers	12	9	0	3	27	13	14	27
Wollongong Wolves	12	8	2	2	25	14	11	26
Sydney Olympic	12	8	1	3	40	12	28	25
Marconi Fairfield	12	8	1	3	29	17	12	25
Sydney United	12	7	0	5	22	18	4	21
Gladesville Horn Ass	12	6	2	4	24	18	6	20
Leichhardt Tigers	12	6	0	6	16	15	1	18
Parramatta Eagles	12	5	2	5	28	19	9	17
Eastern Suburbs	12	3	1	8	10	37	-27	10
Sutherland Sharks	12	2	3	7	10	19	-9	9
Macarthur Rams	12	1	4	7	9	19	-10	7
Southern Branch	12	2	1	9	10	43	-33	7
Manly Warr Dolphins	12	2	0	10	9	34	-25	6
Central Coast	12	2	0	10	9	43	-34	6



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# PREMIER LEAGUE



## ANGELOS' HEAVENLY PERFORMANCE FOR ALTONA EAST

### CAN ANYONE CATCH SHARKS?

#### ALTONA MAGIC 3 SUNSHINE GEORGIES 2

By George Koukeris

Altona Magic continued their winning ways on Saturday night at Paisley Park, beating Sunshine Georgies 3-2 in a hard fought match.

Sunshine's Alfonso Opazo was lively early, testing Magic 'keeper Darren McGrath on a few occasions.

In the 34th minute, Opazo was brought down in the area by Magic defender Simon Micevski and referee Rick Arturi had no hesitation in awarding a penalty that Opazo converted himself.

Three minutes later Altona equalised, catching the Georgies off their guard. New recruit Ace Vasilevski crossed to Zoran Todorovski who beat Sunshine 'keeper Steve Wardle in the 40th minute.

In the second stanza, the Magic came out with all guns blazing to instantly take the lead when Marjan Tasevski's corner was headed in by Todorovski.

Toni Trifunov added a third in the 63rd minute when his shot beat Wardle and found the top right corner of the net.

Magic substitute Zoran Petrevski had lasted only 12 minutes when referee Arturi gave him his marching orders for a late tackle on Joe Debono.

In the 90th minute Mark Recchia gave the Georgies a slight hope with a second goal.

The Georgies last chance came in stoppage time but Debono blew his chance to equalise when he sent a shot into the skies after being directly in front of goal.

**Magic:** McGrath, Trifunov, Tasevski, Risteovski, Micevski (Bizimovski), T.Markovski, Vasilevski, Trajeski (Madarovski), Todorovski (Petrevski - sent off), Sapazovski, Velkovski.

**Georgies:** Wardle, Krajacic, Bot, Debono, Tambouras, Rozantits, Kanesoulis (Stojanovski), Recchia, Opazo, De La Plaza, Hermosilla (Vera).

Referee: Rick Arturi

Votes:

3- Todorovski (AM)

2- Vasilevski (AM)

1- Opazo (SG).

#### SOUTH DANDENONG 0 ALTONA EAST 2

By Kevin Christopher

A goal in each half from striker George Angelos was sufficient for Altona East to leave George Andrews Reserve. In a game played under threatening skies, the visitors deserved their win with South Dandenong failing to convert the few good chances they had, thanks to a combination of profligate finishing and some excellent goalkeeping from new signing Sam Frangos.

South Dandenong almost took the lead after 24 minutes when Nick van Egmond hit a post following a quickly taken free kick by Carlo Villani, and Frangos could only watch as Reshat Mezensof was unable to bury the rebound from close range.

Within a minute Altona East were ahead, the result of Angelos losing his marker and converting a thoughtful pass from Steven Bartol.

The hosts responded admirably with Van Egmond and Villani both going close, Robert Runje hitting a post and Mezensof chipping a free kick just over.

The second half began with South Dandenong pushing hard for an equaliser. Mezensof looked certain to score with his head after just three minutes but Frangos produced an excellent reflex save with his foot and was on hand just minutes later to again deny Mezensof.

Referee Hakan Anaz then imposed his authority by issuing a series of yellow cards, with Altona East's Peter Groidis picking up two in eight minutes, firstly for shooting at goal after the whistle had been blown and then for time wasting.

Altona East's second goal came with seven minutes remaining when Angelos made a forceful run, Paul Donnelly took over and his perfect cross left Angelos with the simple task of pushing the ball into an unguarded net.

**South:** Roche, Kirichian (Muriqi), Tarevski, Runje, Gupinar, Moodie (Mucaj), Memeti, Pelja (Katouk), Van Egmond, Villani, Mezensof.

**Phoenix:** Frangos, R.Antoniadis, Kapulica, Salpingidis, Dimitrelis, Donnelly (Petrovski), L.Catalano (Kappadai), Groidis (sent off), Bartol, Papadopoulos, Angelos (T.Antoniadis).

Referee: Hakan Anaz

Votes:

3- Bartol (AE)

2- Angelos (AE)

1- Frangos (AE)

#### ST ALBANS SAINTS 1 SPRINGVALE WE 1

By Ivan Perkov

In a game which turned out to be a manager-less affair, St Albans Saints and Springvale White Eagles played an uninspiring 1-1 draw on Sunday.

Both Steve Rastocic from the Saints and Milos Nastic from the White Eagles earlier last week resigned from their respective posts, citing different reasons for their departures.

Both teams were revved up for a match that promised much, but on a rain sodden Churchill Reserve, delivered little. After coming off losses last week, both teams were determined to get back to winning ways.

Inside the first 15 minutes Harry Karl spurned a fantastic opportunity, after receiving the ball from a poor goal kick, he ran past two defenders only to musk and shoot wide.

After some hesitant play, Springvale took the lead in the 23rd minute after good work by youngster Rade Culibrk, Zlatko Mihajlovic and Sasa Nikolic interchanged passes before Mihajlovic laid the ball on a plate for an unmarked Eric Styczen to make it 1-0.

In the 37th minute the Saints got the goal they needed, Slavko Rados delivered a pinpoint cross on to the head of Ante Kelic, who equalised and scored his second goal in successive matches.

In the closing stages of the first half, a Zlatko Mihajlovic header would have stole the lead if it was not for the thickness of the crossbar.

The second 45 minutes was dull like the weather with only half-chances being created, none of which altered the scoreline.

After the match both camps were disappointed about the result but excited at the prospect of having new coaches.

**Saints:** Vunderl, Raspudic, Colina, Karl, Dragicevic, K.Razov, Rados, Kelic (Movric), Sianidis (Sanic), Vidakovic (Benac), I.Razov.

**White Eagles:** Simic, Calomino, M.Mihajlovic, Culibrk, Nikolic, Mandic, Mlinar, Z.Mihajlovic, Cvetkovski, Styczen (Bezbradica), Gacovski.

Referee: Robert Ince

Votes:

3- I. Razov (StA)

2- Kelic (StA)

1- Z. Mihajlovic (SWE)

#### FAWKNER BLUES 1 PORT MELBOURNE SHARKS 2

By Soccer Weekly

Port Melbourne Sharks' unbeaten start to the season continued on Sunday when they beat Fawkner Blues 2-1.

Premier League leading scorer Peter Kakos was at it again, notching his 10th goal in eight games.

But it was the Blues who took the lead. Frank Tramontana scored from the penalty spot after Roddy Vargas had brought down Josip Biskic.

Kakos scored in the 30th minute after Fawkner 'keeper Maurice Gonzalez cleared out a John Pappas cross to him.

The Sharks took the lead six minutes later when Kosta Caimakamis converted a penalty, after Caimakamis himself was brought down by Peter Bordignon.

Fawkner had chances to get back into the game, notably through Peter Psarros and Tamer Simsek but couldn't find that all important second goal.

**Blues:** Gonzalez, Tramontana, P.Ferrante, Schipano, Bordignon, Collins, Di Sauro (Sterjovski), Biskic, Duzel, Simsek, Psarros (Alexopoulos).

**Sharks:** Cooper, Latinopoulos (Palatasides), Vargas, Fak, Knezevic, Heath, Palamaras, Caimakamis (Jackson), Pappas, Kakos, Tsaltas.

Referee: Senko Rastocic

Votes:

3- Caimakamis (PM)

2 Biskic (FB)

1- Tramontana (FB)



#### BENTLEIGH GREENS 0 PRESTON LIONS 4

By Soccer Weekly

Preston Lions crept into third on the Premier League table after a convincing 4-0 win at Bentleigh Greens on Sunday.

Kamer Simsek gave the Lions the lead in the 25th minute when chipped over Greens 'keeper Glenn Clarke.

That lead was doubled just three minutes later when Tony Ujgunovski was on hand to score when Clarke couldn't hang on to a Chris Emsovski shot.

It wasn't all one-way traffic though, Preston 'keeper Lupce Acevski was kept busy, making at least seven important saves in a man-of-the-match performance.

Warren Spink extended Preston's lead in the 52nd minute and Sash Markovski wrapped it up in the 69th minute when he was found by an Emsovski through ball.

**Greens:** Clarke, Karapatsos, Micheil, McDonagh, Constantinou, Drakos, Kourkoutzelos, Papettas (Pino), Nilo, Grella (Mladenovic), Kalimeris (Lenetis).

**Lions:** Acevski, Slavevski, Graham (Stojceovski), Kovacic, Filipovski, Ognenovski, Markovski, Emsovski, Burlak (Ujgunovski), Simsek, Spink.

Referee: Dominic Barba

Votes:

3- Acevski (PL)

2- Drakos (BG)

1- Ognenovski (PL)



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### ROUND 7 DETAILS

Bulleen Inter Kings 0 - Melbourne Raiders 1 (Salievski)

Votes: 3- Cuculeski (MR), 2- Rusmir (BK), 1- Salievski (MR)

Westvale 2 (Goutzioulis 2) - St Albans Saints 1 (Kelic)

Votes: 3- Goutzioulis (W), 2- I.Razov (StA), 1- Oeri (W)

### ROUND 8

Altona Magic 3 (Todorovski 2, Trifunov) - Sunshine Georgies 2 (Opazo, Recchia)

South Dandenong 0 - Altona East 2 (Angelos 2)

St Albans Saints 1 (Kelic) - Springvale White Eagles 1 (Styczen)

Fawkner Blues 1 (Tramontana) - Port Melbourne Sharks 2 (Kakos, Caimakamis)

Bentleigh Greens 0 - Preston Lions 4 (Simsek, Ujgunovski, Spink, Markovski)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Port Melbourne Sharks	8	7	1	0	22	5	22
Green Gully Cavaliers	7	5	1	1	17	12	16
Preston Lions	8	5	0	3	17	8	15
Bentleigh Greens	8	3	3	2	15	10	12
Bulleen Inter Kings	7	3	3	1	11	6	12
Melbourne Raiders	7	3	2	2	10	8	11
Altona East	8	3	2	3	9	13	11
Altona Magic	8	3	1	4	10	21	10
South Dandenong	8	2	3	3	12	10	9
St Albans Saints	8	2	2	4	9	15	8
Springvale White Eagles	8	1	3	4	9	12	6
Westvale	7	1	3	3	10	17	6
Fawkner Blues	8	1	2	5	10	13	5
Sunshine Georgies	8	1	2	5	8	19	5

### ROUND 9 FIXTURES

Saturday March 27

Altona Magic v South Dandenong - kick off 7pm at Paisley Park

Sunday March 28

Preston Lions v Altona East - kick off 3pm at Goodyear Stadium

Port Melbourne Sharks v Bentleigh Greens - kick off 3pm at Anderson Reserve

Springvale White Eagles v Melbourne Raiders - kick off 3pm at Serbian Sports Centre

Sunshine Georgies v St Albans Saints - kick off 3pm at Chaplin Reserve.

Monday March 29

Bulleen Inter Kings v Fawkner Blues - kick off 8.15pm at Veneto Club

Westvale v Green Gully Cavaliers - kick off 8.15pm at Green Gully Reserve





# QUEENSLAND



## BRAYSHAW PAINTS A BRIGHT FUTURE

**E**very so often, a real character emerges from somewhere to add the colour to football that provides enjoyment and a talking point. Andy Brayshaw is one such character.

Born in Sydney in 1971 and growing up on the Gold Coast, Brayshaw spent his junior football days playing for Broadbeach United gaining selection in Queensland Juniors and the Australian Schoolboys in 1990.

Brayshaw then played overseas for Scottish club Kilmarnock and returned to Queensland in 1993 to join Taringa Rovers.

It was here he was selected in the Queensland team to play against New Zealand and was spotted by national league club Parramatta, who were quick to recognise the versatile strikers' ability.

Brayshaw enjoyed a successful year at the Eagles playing alongside another Queenslander, Glenn Gwynne. The two shared a flat at suburban Carlingford which was just 10 minutes from the Parramatta ground and Brayshaw has fond memories of his time at the club.

"I loved my time in Sydney, every bit of it and I was very disappointed when the Eagles were dropped from the national league," Brayshaw said. "I shared a flat with Glenn, and we both enjoyed being in Sydney and playing for the club."

Following the axing of Parramatta from the Ericsson Cup, a number of clubs chased Brayshaw for his signature but it was the Brisbane Strikers who won out and in fact signed both Brayshaw and Gwynne.

It was not only the spotlights of soccer that shined for Brayshaw but it was also fights, action, camera as he found himself on the sets of quite a few episodes of the television series Paradise Beach and Flipper, both of which were filmed on the Gold Coast.

More notoriety came his way when his hairdresser carved the Uhlspott logo on the back of his head and shaved the rest of it. Photographs of which were flashed around the world.

Of his time with the Strikers, Brayshaw is disappointed.

"It wasn't the best time of my soccer career, I personally felt I could have played better but I did love being part of the grand final year and they were a terrific bunch of players," Brayshaw said.

Following the Strikers stint, he went on loan to Gold Coast City for a season and this year has signed with Brisbane club Mt Gravatt SC under coach John Stewart.

He has been appointed team captain and is optimistic of the sides chances.

"I am enjoying being captain of Mt Gravatt and we are hoping to do well although our start has been less than favourable," Brayshaw said.

"We are doing a bit of squad building and I know we can turn things around, we have some very good young players."

Mt Gravatt have recently secured a \$50,000 sponsorship deal with Brisbane company South City Mazda.

On a business side, Brayshaw has his own house-painting business. On a

personal side, all of his spare time is spent with his partner Vanessa Mathew, who is a police prosecutor for the Queensland Police and together they renovating their house in Chelmer, a south west suburb of Brisbane.

On his football future, Brayshaw knows he can still play at national league level and would consider it, but for the moment is content enough as captain of his new club Mt Gravatt's first team.

Queensland's Premier League is just over a month old yet already Brisbane Lions are setting a solid pace out in front, reports Glenn Davis. Lions are the only team in the competition to have won all five matches this season to lead a pack of chasers including Rochdale, Brisbane City and Taringa.

Lions are normally slow starters to the season with coach Miron Bleiberg declaring in the past that a season is 27 matches long and a lot happens in that period.

But this year, Lions are looking particularly dangerous early on with Steve Jackson returning to the side after striker Warren Allan, defender Roy Huth and the talented Vedran Becirbegovic missed the early couple of rounds.

Lions came from a 2-1 second half deficit in round four to steal a 3-2 win over Wynnum at home then repeated the scoreline last Saturday night in a hard fought away victory over Bundaberg Waves.

Bleiberg is regarded as a "horses for courses" coach, hence he's often criticised for his decisions to change winning combinations.

Lions, with midfielder Darren Hillier taking charge and playing the best football of his career, still fall short in Bleiberg's opinion of a good footballing side.

"To be honest, we're not playing what I consider to be great soccer," Bleiberg said in a recent interview.

"We're scoring a lot of goals and while that is very pleasing, I think we are only performing at around seventy-five per cent of our capacity at present."

BRISBANE CITY	-	Spencer Park, Newmarket
BRISBANE LIONS	-	Lions Stadium, Richlands
BUNDABERG WAVES	-	Thabeban Sports Complex, Bundaberg
GOLD COAST CITY	-	Southport SC, Ashmore
IPSWICH KNIGHTS	-	Enc Evans Reserve, Bundamba
MT GRAVATT	-	Dittmer Park, Mt Gravatt
ROCHEDALE ROVERS	-	Underwood Park, Rochdale
TARINGA ROVERS	-	Jack Speare Park, Indooroopilly
TOOWOOMBA RAIDERS	-	Gold Park, Toowoomba
WYNNUM	-	Carmichael Park, Tingalpa

Lions again this year have a wealth of experience despite the loss of some players and have the depth which is the envy of ever club in the league.

Brisbane City generally were regarded as championship favourites at the start of the season, but a shock 3-2 loss to Gold Coast in round three has seen last season's premiers drift in the market with some punters.

Brisbane City, however, are bound to press Lions for the title with goal scoring wizard Chris Slater again up front this season.

Brisbane City, who surrendered a 2-nil half time lead in going down to the Gold Coast, bounced back in round four with an emphatic 3-1 win over Toowoomba before a waterlogged pitch forced the postponement on Saturday night against Mt Gravatt.

Toowoomba, who were late inclusions into the XXXX League this season

after the withdrawal of Beenleigh for financial reasons, will find the going tough this season.

But given time to develop Toowoomba has the capacity and resources to be a future strong hold for local soccer.

With no big name players and just good club men, consolidation and sheer hard work will be needed from them to get off the bottom of the table following their fifth straight 1-0 loss to Taringa Rovers at Jack Speare Park on Sunday.

The Gold Coast have surprised many with their good season start, particularly their shock win over Brisbane City in round three.

However, the Gold Coast were brought back to earth with a thump after suffering a 7-nil hiding in round four to Rochdale before allowing Wynnum to register their first win of the season in a 3-1 victory at Wynnum on Sunday.

Gold Coast and coach Ken Lindsay has a side more than capable of forcing their way into the playoffs in September with some handy players with premier league experience in former Brisbane Strikers forward Ian Hutchison, defender Mark Bennett and midfielder Eddie Lees.

Rochdale Rovers, who recorded their fourth win of the season by beating Ipswich 2-nil at home last Saturday, again are being tipped to vie for premiership honours.

Veteran striker Kieran Cooper, who scored against Ipswich, is back after a brief 12-month retirement which will give coach Peter Bannon an extra string to his attacking bow.

Taringa Rovers, who unluckily missed a finals berth last season with a rookie team of youngsters, showed in their 4-0 thumping of Ipswich Knights recently that they have grown a year in experience.

With coach John Ogden guiding the ship again, Taringa easily has the youngest squad in the league but consistency again will be the key following Bundaberg's upset 1-nil win in round four.

Apart from Bundaberg, who are sitting just outside the top four clubs, Ipswich, Mt Gravatt and Wynnum all have the capacity of knocking over the top sides throughout the year but depth could be their downfall.

Ipswich, coached by former national league great Frank Pimblett, in particular will be looking for a semi finals berth along with Mt Gravatt who have picked up some interesting new signings in the offseason.

And don't forget this Friday night is the Alan Niven Testimonial Benefit Match at the Lions Stadium, kicking off at 8.30pm.

All proceeds go to the Niven family. Admission is only \$5. For more information call Les Moodley on 3271 3636.



(Andy Brayshaw... captain of Mt Gravatt)

## RESULTS, TABLES AND THIS WEEK'S ROUND

### XXXX LEAGUE

	P	L	D	G	A	Diff	Pts
Brisbane Lions	5	5	0	0	16	8	15
Rochdale Rov	5	4	0	1	17	4	13
Taringa Rovers	5	3	0	2	9	3	9
Brisbane City	4	3	0	1	9	6	9
B'berg Waves	5	2	1	2	9	9	7
Gold Coast	5	2	1	2	9	14	7
IPSW Knights	5	2	0	3	6	9	6
Wynnum	5	1	0	4	6	13	7
Mt Gravatt	4	0	2	2	6	9	3
Toowoomba Utd	5	0	0	5	3	15	0

### ROUND 5 SCORES

Taringa Rovers	.....1	Toowoomba Utd	.....0
Mt Gravatt	.....0	Brisbane City	.....0
B'berg Waves	.....2	Brisbane Lions	.....3
Wynnum	.....3	Gold Coast	.....1
Rochdale Rov	.....2	IPSW Knights	.....0

### DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	L	D	G	A	Diff	Pts
Rocklea Utd	4	4	0	0	19	8	11
Capalaba	3	3	0	0	6	0	6
Slacks Creek	5	2	1	2	10	8	7
Souths Utd	4	2	0	2	12	5	7
Redlands Utd	3	1	1	1	7	9	4
Inala City	4	1	1	2	8	12	4
Olympic Utd	3	1	0	2	5	7	3
Acacia Ridge	4	0	2	2	4	11	7
Beenleigh	4	0	1	3	3	14	11

### ROUND 5 SCORES

Redlands Utd v Capalaba (wash out)  
Acacia Ridge v Rocklea Utd (wash out)  
Inala City v bye

Olympic Utd	.....1	Souths Utd	.....4
Slacks Creek	.....1	Beenleigh	.....1

### DIVISION ONE NORTH

	P	L	D	G	A	Diff	Pts
Albany Creek	4	4	0	0	12	5	7

Eastern Subs	4	3	1	0	8	4	4	10
North Star	4	3	0	1	14	8	6	9
Unl Of Qld	5	2	1	2	9	10	-1	7
Newmarket	4	2	0	2	10	9	1	6
Pine Rivers Utd	3	1	1	1	5	4	1	4
Mitchelton	4	1	0	3	5	8	-3	3
Grange Thistle	5	0	2	3	7	13	-6	2
The Gap	5	0	1	4	13	22	-9	

### ROUND 5 SCORES

Albany Creek	.....6	The Gap	.....3
Pine Rivers Utd	.....0	Bye	.....0
Mitchelton	.....2	Unl of Qld	.....3
Eastern Subs	.....3	North Star	.....1
Grange Thistle	.....2	Newmarket	.....3

### ROUND 6

28-03	Toowoomba Utd	v	Mt Gravatt	0245
28-03	Brisbane City	v	Rochdale Rov	0245
28-03	Ipswich Knights	v	Wynnum	0400
28-03	Gold Coast	v	B'berg Waves	0245
28-03	Brisbane Lions	v	Taringa Rovers	0400



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Olympiakos in the  
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Benfica and Boavista in the Portuguese League.



# GREECE

## CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE JUST FIVE MORE MINUTES!

**O**lympiakos almost did it. Another five minutes and the Greek Champions would have beaten Juventus at home and gone through to the semifinals of the European Cup.

But none of that came to fruition as Antonio Conte scored a goal in the 85th minute to give Juventus a 1-1 draw on Wednesday at the Olympic Stadium in the 2nd leg of the European Cup quarterfinals.

The draw means that Juventus goes through on a 3-2 aggregate, having won 2-1 two weeks ago in Turin, Italy.

"We had problems at the beginning of the game," said Juventus coach Carlo Ancelotti, "but we picked up our game as we went along."

Olympiakos was able to get the first goal in just the 12th minute through a Sinica Gogic header, making the 80,000 fans go berserk. Elias Poursanidis started the play by sending the ball up the right side to Grigorios Georgatos.

Georgatos then crossed the ball in front of the net, where Gogic escaped his marker and was able to get his head to the ball and give Olympiakos the lead.

Olympiakos continued to attack throughout the rest of the first half and got a couple of other decent chances, but they were not able to add to their lead. The Greek side finished the game with three shots on goal, just one in the first half, while Juventus had five, two of which came in the first half.

"Olympiakos played well, at least in the first half," said Olympiakos coach Dusan Bajevic. "We created three good chances but failed to capitalize."

The best of the missed opportunities came in the 62nd minute when Georgatos again sent in a cross, this time for Giorgos Amanatidis. Amanatidis got his head to the ball and he put it on target, but Juventus goalkeeper Michelangelo Rampulla made a two-handed save and sent the ball over the net.

Olympiakos tried to keep up the attack in the second half, but Vasilis Karapialis was replaced by Kofi Amponsah in the 78th minute.

Bajevic said he took out Karapialis, who got a yellow card in the 60th minute, because he was feeling a pain in his leg and he was tiring.

Seven minutes after the substitution, in the 85th

minute, Conte struck and dashed the semi-final hopes of Olympiakos.

Alessandro Birindelli, himself a substitute from the 83rd minute, crossed in a ball in front of the net for Filippo Inzaghi. Inzaghi swung his leg at the ball just as Olympiakos keeper Dimitris Eleftheropoulos came out and the two collided.

Unfortunately for Olympiakos, the ball just fell to Conte, who was standing unmarked right in front of the net. He controlled with his body and then equalized with a swift kick.

"We answered back. At the end of the day we deserved to advance. We had the luck with us tonight, which is always something you need," said Ancelotti.

Said Bajevic: "After the first half, Juventus played forward because they had nothing to lose. We made just one error, which was costly."

Juventus was playing without two stars, goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi and forward Alessandro Del Piero, both due to injuries.

The quarterfinal berth marks the furthest Olympiakos has gone in the European Cup, while Juventus reaches

the semi-finals for the fourth consecutive year. The Italian Champions have been in the final the last three years, winning three years ago on penalty kicks against Ajax and then losing to Borussia Dortmund and Real Madrid the last two times.

Scorers: Olympiakos: Sinica Gogic 12' — Juventus: Antonio Conte 85'

Halftime: 1-0; Attendance: 70,000

Aggregate score: Olympiakos Piraeus 2 - Juventus 3

**Olympiakos:** 31-Dimitris Eleftheropoulos, 3-Kyriakos Karataidis, 5-George Amanatidis, 6-Ilias Poursanidis, 7-Stelios Yannakopoulos, 9-Sinica Gogic, 11-Predrag Djordjevic, 14-Dimitris Mavrogenidis, 32-George Anadolakis, 18-Vassilis Karapialis (12-Kofi Amponsah 78), 21-Grigorios Georgatos.

**Juventus:** 12-Michelangelo Rampulla, 3-Zoran Mirkovic, 4-Paolo Montero, 7-Angelo Di Livio, 8-Antonio Conte, 14-Didier Deschamps, 26-Edgar Davids, 21-Zinedine Zidane, 13-Mark Iuliano, 34-Juan Esnaider (16-Nicola Amoroso 69), 9-Filippo Inzaghi.

Referee: Marcus Merk (Germany)

## CUP WINNERS CUP PANIONIOS CRUSHED!

**L**azio cruised to a 3-0 victory over Panionios on Thursday to complete a 7-0 aggregate rout and book their place in the semifinals of the European Cup Winners' Cup.

Czech Pavel Nedved opened the scoring on 70 minutes for the Rome side, who left most of their regular first team players either on the bench or in the stands following their 4-0 win in the first leg in Greece.

Yugoslav Dejan Stankovic scored the second seven minutes later before Spain's Ivan De la Pena exchanged passes with Nedved down the right flank before adding a third eight minutes before the final whistle.

With the result of the tie a foregone conclusion before kick-off, Lazio's Swedish coach Sven Goran Eriksson gave his big name players an evening off.

As a result the substitutes' list was one of the more formidable ever assembled for a European tie.

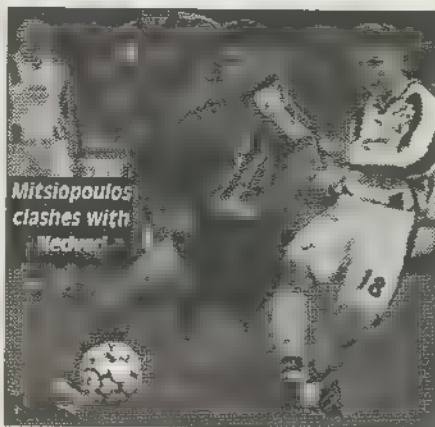
Chilean striker Marcelo Salas, playmaker Roberto Mancini and Portuguese midfielder Sergio Conceicao all watched from the sidelines, ready to come on in the unlikely event of a Panionios fight-back.

They were not needed, even if their lesser known team mates took a long time to break down their opponents.

De la Pena provided Nedved with the first goal, breaking down the left and curling in an accurate right foot cross.

Greek goalkeeper Fotak Strakosia misjudged the ball's trajectory and Nedved volleyed home from close range.

Stankovic, one of the few Lazio first team regulars on the field, burst through the heart of the visiting defence and slotted a angled shot under Strakosia for the Rome side's second.



Former Barcelona player De la Pena, playing for a place in the first team, then played a neat one-two with Nedved and fired home Lazio's third.

Only 15,000 fans turned up for the match at the 80,000-capacity Olympic stadium but that did not trouble Eriksson.

"The important thing is we're in the semifinals," he said. "We look forward to the draw tomorrow to see who we'll face."

**Lazio:** 22-Marco Ballotta; 13-Alessandro Nesta, 1-Sinisa Mihajlovic, 3-Stefano Lombardi, 4-Attilio Lombardo; 26-Roberto Baronio, 24-Fernando Couto, 18-Pavel Nedved, 17-Guerino Gattardi; 20-Dejan Stankovic, 21-Ivan De la Pena.

**Panionios:** 12-Fotak Strakosia; 19-Giorgios Mitsopoulos, 23-Grannis Kamistis, 30-Gareth Roberts; 4-Athanasios Gazis, 8-Lars Bakkerud, 31-Paul Tisdale, 26-Anastasios Zachopoulos, 7-Mark Robins; 10-Antonios Sapountzis, 28-Theofilos Karasavvidis.

Referee: Bernd Heynemann (Germany)

## CATCHING UP WITH THE EXILES

**GEORGIADIS, G. H.:** Georgiadis celebrated his first goal wearing the jersey of Newcastle a fortnight ago. The Greek international was making a rare appearance for the team of the "coal miners" and came on as a substitution for the Croatian player Maric in the 54th minute in the game against Everton.

It was only 8 minutes later when Georgiadis scored his first goal and was also the player that had the assist on Newcastle's third goal (Newcastle won 4-1) scored by teammate Temuri Ketspaia in the 73rd minute.

Georgiadis got a start against Manchester United in the following game but the whole team failed to shine, going down 1-2 at home.

**TSARTAS:** Tsartas was the instrumental leader in Seville's 4-0 win against Osasuna as his team climbed up in 5th place in the B' Division of the Spanish championship with 43 points.

The Greek midfielder was the best player on the field and scored two goals in the 21st minute with a penalty kick and in the 48th minute. He also had the assists on Seville's two other goals.

Whispers though seem to indicate that he is unsettled in Spain and a return to Greece seems to be on the cards though (surprisingly) he is not likely to return to AEK.

**VAKOUFTSIS:** George Vakouftsis became almost delirious

from excitement when Giovanni Trapattoni (Fiorentina's coach), told him that he was going to be included in the 18 player line up in the game against Parma.

"I could not believe what I was hearing", said Vakouftsis. Although he was not used in that game (Fiorentina won 2-1) it was a great opportunity to gain experience.

As he later added to his comments, "It was incredible. So many people at the stadium. Although I did not play it was great experience for me. Trapattoni at the end of the game he put in all of his defenders as substitutions to keep the score."

Trapattoni took out Edmundo from the 18 player line-up due to Edmundo's 4.5 year jail sentence.

**DABIZAS:** For the second year in a row Nikos Dabizas has every right to believe that he is going to be playing in the final of the F.A. Cup. Newcastle destroyed Everton 4-1 and the Greek defender played the whole game. The Gordies are in the semi-finals where they are going to play Tottenham.

**KOSTIS:** Kostis is finished with Anderlecht! Since Kostis can't take part of the team's practices (due to injury) the team's management has decided to let him go at the end of July on a free. It is rumoured that AEK is already in communication with the player and it is very possible that the two will cement their relationship in the near future.

**ANASTASIOU:** Anderlecht easily beat Lommel 3-0, but Yiannis Anastasiou once again did not play well and was substituted in the 70th minute.

**VLAHOS:** Portsmouth (in the First Division of the English championship) lost 4-1 in the away game against Birmingham. Michalis Vlahos played for 67 minutes and he was substituted after a mediocre game.

**MARAGOS:** He was one of Omonoia's best players in the win against Paralimni (5-0). He also scored the second goal of the game.

**HOUTOS:** Lambros Houtos "struck" once again. The Greek forward of Roma Primavera scored two goals (32', 90') and led his team in a win against Lecce (3-1). Roma is the leader in their division with 34 points.

**SALAPASIDIS:** In the last eight minutes of the game against Hercules played Kostas Salapasidis. The Compostela player came into the game as a substitution in the 82nd minute.

**MACHLAS:** Mahlas' injury prevented him for playing at Arnhem once again.

**KRIOS:** Vaggelis Krios had a very good game this past weekend. Ceuta's midfielder played the whole game in the C' Division game of the Spanish division against the "B" team of Seville.

**DID NOT PLAY:** Zagorakis, Efthimiadis, Varvoutis, Borbokis, Dellas, Grammozis, Anagnostou, Haniotakis, Ouzounidis, and Gonias.



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# ASIA

## CHINESE CLUB SIGNS EURO PLAYERS

Chinese first division club Beijing Guo'an has signed on three more foreign players, increasing its overseas recruits to five, the club announced.

Beijing has picked up Danish forward Torken Remco, Hungarian attacking midfielder Mracsko Mihaly and Yugoslavian defenceman Cestic Petar.

Remco, 27, has played in the Spanish and Dutch first division leagues, while Mihaly, 31, and Petar, 25, have played in the first division leagues of their respective countries.

The Guo'an already have players from Portugal and Paraguay.

Lebanon will spend 40 billion Lebanese pounds on renovating and building soccer stadiums for

the 2000 Asian Cup.

Parliament authorised the government to fund the plan by collecting 5,000 pounds additional tax on each air ticket sold until the end of 2003, and 15,000 pounds on each hotel night spent during the games in October 2000.

The law, which needs the approval of President Emile Lahoud, will lead to the building of four soccer stadiums.

Two will be in the port cities of Sidon and Tripoli costing \$16 million. The renovation of two stadiums plus building another two in Baalbek and Beirut will cost about \$11 million.

Eighteen soccer teams will compete in three groups for the Asian Cup in 2000.



## ROMARIO TO PLAY IN VIETNAM!!

Teams from Brazil, Italy and Holland will play Vietnam's national team in a tournament in June in Ho Chi Minh City, it was announced last week.

Flamengo of Brazil, Perugia of Italy and the Dutch team Ajax Amsterdam would play in the four-match tournament, Vietnam Football Federation general secretary Pham Ngoc Vien told AFP.

"This is a good chance for the Vietnam national football team to test its strength", he said.

Vietnam will meet Perugia on June 3 and Flamengo will play Ajax Amsterdam the following day. The two winners will advance to the final match and the losers would play-off for third.

Renowned Brazilian striker Romario is expected to join Flamengo for the tournament, Vien said.



## SEXY *Glory Boy* GETS NOTICED IN SINGAPORE

Former Ericsson Cup player Doug Ithier is apparently causing a bit of a stir, according to reports in the Singapore Soccer press.

The press states that the 1.84-metre tall, 81-kg, hazel-eyed defender, who looks as though he could be just as comfortable on the pitch as on a catwalk, already has a small band of admirers — female reporters who have seen his pictures.

Said one male magazine writer: "I took his picture back to the office and was swamped by my female colleagues. They all think he's so cute."

But apart from his good looks and muscular physique, there are other reasons why the 24-year-old defender could become the S-League poster-boy of the future — he is a pretty good footballer as well.

Ithier, part Mauritian and part Australian, was the vice-captain of Sarawak last season under Alan Vest, and could well have joined Geylang had Marine Castle not made its approach first.

Said Ithier, who has played for the Australian amateur side: "When Marine Castle approached me, Alan had yet to sign with Geylang."

"Plus, Lotto had been sponsoring me for quite some time and they had ties with Marine Castle. So when they made their move, I agreed."

Geylang's loss appears to be Marine Castle's gain as the Dolphins have got a player good enough to have earned a trial at English Premiership club Blackburn Rovers last August.

That six-week stint almost earned him a contract offer with the club but Ithier was unable to secure the necessary work permit to play in England — a situation he is still trying to remedy.

"That still remains my ultimate ambition," said the player, who has opted now to play international soccer with Mauritius, his father's birthplace.

His future son, though, expected in July, will likely be born in Singapore, the medical expertise and safe environment here among the prime reasons why Ithier chose to play in the S-League.

The beneficiaries of that decision this year will be the Dolphins of Marine Castle, both on the pitch, and surely, in the stands.

In the league Marine Castle plays Singapore Armed Forces on March 31

S-League chief executive officer Chris Chan is so impressed with Jurong FC that he is willing to take a wager on it.

Said Chan, who watched Jurong beat Sembawang Rangers 2-0: "I am prepared to bet with you that Jurong will not finish among the bottom teams this year."

"In fact, I believe that they have a stronger squad than last year when they finished fifth. This year, they can do

even better.

"I saw them on Sunday and they played some beautiful football. And that was without two foreign players and V. Sundramoorthy in the team," he said to local press.

At present, Jurong has signed three foreign players — Englishman Jason Ainsley, Croat Bojan Hodak and Australian Mirko Jurilj (does anybody know who he is?).

Hodak and Ainsley were retained from last season while Jurilj used to play for Woodlands Wellington two years ago.

The club is now looking for a fourth foreigner, and it is likely to be a striker.

Said Chan: "The only weakness I see at the moment is in the strikers' department."

"They have Joseph Pragasan and Sundram up front but maybe need one more player there to be complete."

In its friendlies so far, Jurong has beaten Indian Association 7-0, Gombak United 2-1, Brunei 4-1 and Sembawang 2-0.

But it also lost 0-3 to Sembawang in an earlier match.

One of the things that has impressed Chan the most is some of the young players Jurong has registered for the new season. He singled out defenders Tan Wee Seng and L. Subramaniam for special mention.

Woodlands Wellington wants a second opinion from FIFA on whether it must pay compensation for signing Englishmen Stuart Young and Max Nicholson.

But it cannot approach the world governing body directly, as only national associations like the Football Association of Singapore can do so.

So, the Rams forwarded their appeal letter to the FAS, which ironically, was the body that told Woodlands to pay compensation in the first place.

Not surprisingly, the FAS is not planning to forward the appeal letter to FIFA.

Said FAS Players Status Committee chairman R. Palakrishnan: "The rules on the matter are very clear. The PSC's decision is final."

"We even sought clarification from FIFA on the rules before making the ruling. So there is no question of appeal."

Young and Nicholson played for other S-League clubs last season. But after their contracts ended, they played for amateur English clubs before returning to sign for Woodlands.

Woodlands believes that it does not have to compensate their previous S-League clubs as they were signed from English clubs.

But the PSC ruled against that, and cited a FIFA article on compensation while making the ruling.

Said Woodlands manager R. Vengadasalam after he

was told that the FAS would not forward the letter: "I am disappointed that they will not let us seek FIFA's opinion on their ruling."

He added that he would relay the information to his

"Of course, I must also consider the tactical requirements of each game."

If I think that I will not serve the team by playing, I will keep myself out."

The midfielder played 20 games last season for Jurong, scoring six goals in the process.

He was also highly influential in his team's fifth place finish in the league table.

And his performances did not go unnoticed. Sundram was one of three finalists for the S-League Player of the Year award.

The award eventually went to former Tanjong Pagar United defender S. Subramani.

This season, Sundram is expected to be a central figure in Jurong's plans, if he manages to stay relatively injury-free, as he did last year.

Before joining the Cobras, the midfielder had an injury-plagued season with Woodlands Wellington, playing in only three league matches then.

But this season, Sundram's sights and responsibilities are much greater than just performing as a player.

Said the new coach: "I cannot think just about my own contributions to the game any longer. I will have to think for the team now."

Although his playing style is very attack-oriented, Sundram insisted that his coaching style would be more suited to the individual match.

He said: "I cannot tell you that my teams will be attacking all the time."

We have to change our tactics for each opponent we face.

"If we face a very strong side, we might just have to sit back and absorb their attacks a bit and then counter. I will approach each game



executive committee before the Rams plan their next course of action.

Jurong FC player-coach V. Sundramoorthy could be the David Mitchell of Singapore Soccer?

Said the 33-year-old former international, who is making his coaching debut this season: "I want to play. And as long as I am fit, I will play."

differently."

Although he did not want to go into specifics, his target for the season is to finish in the top half of the table.

Said Sundram: "It is no point saying how well we want to do and then disappoint everybody. We'll do our talking on the field."



# ITALY

**L**eaders Lazio made short work of Venezia on Sunday with two goals in the opening 15 minutes from Sergio Conceicao and free kick specialist Sinisa Mihajlovic to seal their eighth successive victory at the Olympic stadium.

Lazio retain their five-point advantage in Serie A over Fiorentina, who recovered from the second-half dismissal of Czech defender Thomas Repka to beat Piacenza 2-1 with a last-minute goal from Carmine Esposito.

winner.

For the second time this season, Inter Milan are looking for a new manager after Romanian Mircea Lucescu resigned following his side's humiliating 4-0 defeat at Sampdoria (see story below).

Vincenzo Montella's hat-trick and a fourth from Argentine playmaker Ariel Ortega proved too much for Lucescu just days after Inter's elimination from the European Cup.

Lazio's early nerves were settled by Conceicao with a volley off overlapping defender Giuseppe Favalli's

series of misses when German Christian Ziege presented Osmanovski with his second in the 80th minute.

Like Fiorentina, however, Milan's title hopes were kept alive with last-ditch offensive as Duccio Innocenti handled in the area and Ganz converted the penalty.

## FIorentina 2, PIACENZA 1

At Florence, Esposito tapped in a cross from German defender Jorg Heinrich in the dying

# LAZIO CLOSER TO THE SCUDETTO

AC Milan's title hopes looked doomed when Yksel Osmanovski's second goal of the match put Bari 2-1 up with 11 minutes left at the San Siro, but Maurizio Ganz's injury-time penalty salvaged a fortuitous 2-2 draw for the home side.

European Cup semifinalists Juventus looked destined for their first defeat in eight matches under new manager Carlo Ancelotti when Marco Delvecchio headed Roma in front at Turin's Deile Alpi stadium in the 54th minute.

But defender Mark Iuliano equalised from close range 17 minutes later and it took a superb double save from the visitors' Austrian 'keeper Michael Konseil to deny Nicola Amoruso a late

eight minute cross. Mihajlovic, who has now scored seven of his eight goals this season direct from free kicks, added a superb second from a dead-ball situation in the 14th minute to ensure Lazio equal last season's club record of 16 league matches without defeat.

Fielding Edmundo and Gabriel Batistuta together for the first time since February quickly paid off for Fiorentina. After just six minutes Batistuta seized on a defensive mistake to claim his 19th goal of the season and his first since returning from five weeks out with a knee injury.

But the Fiorentina side's title challenge badly lost its way in the second half as first Simone Inzaghi levelled the scores with a 72nd minute penalty and then Repka was sent off.

In the dying seconds, however, German Jorg Heinrich raced to the by-line before crossing for Esposito's last gasp winner.

At the San Siro, Milan made the worst possible start as Osmanovski seized on a miscued sliding tackle from Alessandro Costacurta to put Bari into a fifth minute lead.

German Oliver Bierhoff equalised just before half-time, but the home side looked like being left to rue a

seconds for Fiorentina, which had Czech defender Tomas Repka sent off for hitting an opponent in the 73rd minute.

Two minutes earlier, Piacenza's Simone Inzaghi tied the score with a penalty kick awarded when Repka fouled Inzaghi.

The hosts had led in the sixth minute through Argentine star Gabriel Batistuta's league-high 19th goal.

## MILAN 2 BARI 2

In Milan, Ganz hit the equalizer for the hosts from the spot with three minutes to go. Bari took the lead in the 79th minute with Swedish striker Yksel Osmanovski's second goal of the game. He created both by stealing the ball from Milan defenders.

## SAMPDORIA 4 INTER 0

At Genoa, where Inter last lost in 1994, Montella found the target in the 12th, 53rd and 65th minutes, while Argentine striker Ariel Ortega added an insurance goal in the 70th.

Inter 'keeper Gianluca Pagliuca left the game after Ortega's score. Sampdoria moved one point above the relegation zone.

## JUVENTUS 1 ROMA 1

At Turin, Iuliano's first goal of the year, with 18 minutes left, salvaged the standings point for Juventus. Marco Delvecchio scored off a header in the 52nd for Roma.

## BOLOGNA 4 VICENZA 2

At Bologna, Russia's Igor Simutenkov and Swedes Kennet Andersson and Klas Ingesson scored between the 79th and 90th minutes. Uruguayan striker Marcelo Otero scored twice for Vicenza.

## CAGLIARI 5 EMPOLI 1

In Cagliari, Mboma scored in the 21st, 46th and 59th

minutes, and also earned a penalty kick in the 25th that veteran Roberto Muzzi converted for the hosts. Muzzi added another goal with 10 minutes left, increasing his season total to a personal-best 14. Arturo Di Napoli scored for Empoli in the 64th.

## PERUGIA 1 SALERNITANA 0

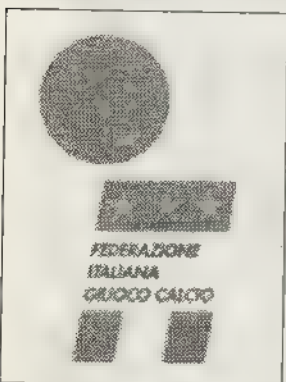
In Perugia, Croat striker Milan Rapajic scored from a free kick in the 69th minute for Perugia to consign the Amalfi Coast side to yet another loss.

In summary, Lazio still lead Italy's Serie A with 55 points while Fiorentina move to clear second with 50 points. Milan are third on 48 points with Parma a further point behind them. Empoli remain at the bottom with 16 points.

The top marksman in Italy is Fiorentina's Gabriel Batistuta with 19 goals followed by Crespo on 16, while Signori and Delvecchio have 14 each. There are no fixtures in Serie A next week.

In Serie B Verona remain on top with 51 points, Treviso moved into second place on 48 points and Torino are third on 47 points. Reggiana sits second from the bottom on 22 points while Cremonese is struggling beneath them on 17.

Next week in Serie B, Napoli take on Ternana, Verona are away to Ravenna and Atalanta meet Brescia.



**M**ircea Lucescu quit as coach of Inter Milan within minutes of a 4-0 loss to Sampdoria in Serie A action Sunday.

The team did not immediately name a replacement. Lucescu, a Romanian, replaced Luigi Simoni on Inter's bench in December and failed to turn the struggling team around. Inter was eliminated from the Champions Cup by England's Manchester United on Wednesday, a week after the club was knocked out of the Italian Cup.

Sunday's defeat stretched Inter's winless skid to 10 games between league and cup

play. Despite being stocked with such stars as Ronaldo, Roberto Baggio and Youri Djorkaeff, Inter is 10-6-10 in Serie A and ninth in the 18-team standings.

Lucescu was brought aboard on an interim basis when Simoni was fired, and club owner Massimo Moratti indicated last week that Marcello Lippi will be named coach during the offseason.

Lippi left Juventus last month after leading the Turin club to three Serie A titles in four years.



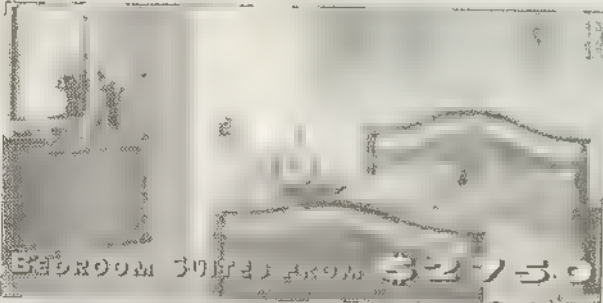
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# EUROPE

## CLEMENTE: 'DON'T EXPECT TO SEE ME AGAIN'

Javier Clemente, Spain's former national team coach, says he expects to leave Real Betis before the start of next season.

Clemente, who took over at the Seville-based club in October on a short-term deal, has handed the club his contract demands for the new season but has yet to receive a reply from president Manuel Ruiz de Lopera.

Press reports in Spain have linked former Parma and Borussia Dortmund coach Nevio Scala with the job and the Italian was present in the crowd for a recent league defeat against Extremadura.

That has left Clemente resigned to leaving Betis at the end of the season.

"My personal opinion now is that I'm not going to continue as coach next year, although there's no war between me and Lopera," he was quoted in Wednesday's Spanish newspapers as saying.

"If they're negotiating with other coaches then obviously I'm not going to carry on. You don't have to be clever to work that out."

"But it seems to me the club are not acting with the same clarity and sincerity as me."

"Lopera is the owner of the club and it's fine as far as I'm concerned that he contracts whoever he wants or gives the sack to me."

"But I like to play clean and I'd like to be treated in the same way. If there are talks with other coaches he should tell me and then that's fine."

Lopera, who has spent a fortune on players during his reign at the club, including \$35 million on Brazilian winger Denilson, is relieved that Betis is clear of relegation danger but is unhappy with the side's current form.

Clemente took over at Betis with the side mired at the bottom of the table with just one win and four goals in its first seven games.

But while the side's situation has improved, Clemente has failed to work a miracle and Betis is treading water in 11th place in the league, with only an outside chance of securing a UEFA Cup berth.



Chilean striker Ivan Zamorano suggested he will stay with Internazionale despite the strong interest by Atletico Madrid to lure him back to Spain.

"I have not intention to leave Milan," Zamorano wrote in his weekly column in the Santiago daily Las Ultimas Noticias.

He said the relationship he has with Inter president Massimo Moratti, with an unidentified new coach to arrive soon, with his teammates and especially with the fans, "allows me to say that I will complete my contract" through next season, "and probably add one additional year."

Zamorano did not specify what future coach he was referring to, but published reports indicate Marcello Lippi may replace Romanian Mircea Lucescu as manager.

But, Zamorano, who transferred from Real Madrid to Internazionale in 1996, added that "I am not closed to any possibilities, but I am not planning to move from here."

Zamorano, 32, played four seasons for Real Madrid — and two years before that with Sevilla, and transferring to Atletico would have him playing for Real's cross-town rival.

Zamorano was the top scorer in the

## ZAMO: 'I AM NOT GOING TO SPAIN'

Spanish Primera Division with 28 goals in 1994-95 and led Real Madrid to the title, but his performance with Inter has been less impressive.

Inter was ousted from the European Champions Cup on Wednesday after a 1-1 draw at home with Manchester United. Newspapers here and in Spain had reported that Inter's elimination would facilitate Zamorano's transfer to Atletico.

"I think too much importance was paid to the Atletico situation, but it never crossed my mind the idea of returning to Spain," Zamorano wrote in another column in El Mercurio. In other Lazio news, Italy defender Alessandro Nesta has pledged himself to Serie A leader Lazio for another five years, the club said.

# BAYERN BLOW: ELBER OUT FOR THE REST OF SEASON

Bayern's star Brazilian forward Elber is out for the rest of the season. Surgery in the United States confirmed that Elber had torn ligaments in his left knee, Bayern said.

Elber's absence could be a setback to Bayern's hopes of achieving a historic triple — winning the Champions League, the Bundesliga and the German Cup.

Elber, who leads the Bundesliga with 13 goals this season, will be out of action for up to five months, the club said.

The 26-year-old Brazilian, considered by many the best player in the Bundesliga, was examined and operated on by specialist Richard Steadman in Vail, Colorado.

Even without Elber, Bayern was too strong for Kaiserslautern, routing the Bundesliga rival 4-0 on the road Wednesday to reach the semi-finals of the Champions League.

Carsten Jancker, who usually teams up with Elber in the attack, scored two goals.

"It was extremely important for our confidence to score four goals," Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld said later.

"We need to remain calm. When Elber is healthy, he has a guaranteed place in the starting lineup."

Now, other players have the chance to establish themselves," he said.

One player who could get more playing time now is Iranian international, and Soccerroo nemesis, Ali Daei.

Looking forward to the Champions League semi-finals, Hitzfeld said he would like to avoid Dynamo Kiev, which eliminated defending champion Real Madrid.

Every opponent in the semifinals is strong, every team will rise to the occasion," Hitzfeld said.

"Juventus and Manchester United are attractive. Kiev is unpleasant."

"Kiev would be the toughest draw we could get,"

Hitzfeld said.

Bayern has not won Europe's most prestigious club competition since 1976, the end of its run of three consecutive triumphs. Hitzfeld coached Borussia Dortmund to the title in 1997.

In the Bundesliga, Bayern had a 14-point lead over Kaiserslautern going into the Kaiserslautern game. The Bavarians are also in the final of the German Cup, where they face Werder Bremen in the June 12 final.

The man charged with recruiting and conducting all transfer business for Inter Milan has warned Scottish football that the standard of competition will have to improve — or the best young talent will continue to move to England and Europe.

Sandro Mazzola watched his side fall on aggregate to Manchester United after a 1-1 home draw in the Champions League quarter-final.

The legendary striker, now Director of Sport at Inter, expressed his belief that Scottish clubs, especially Celtic and Rangers, would be unable to attract and retain the best players unless action is taken.

Mazzola, who scored the penalty which put Inter ahead in the 1967 European Cup Final which Celtic won, oversees the spending of the largest transfer budget in European football.

He said: "Scotland's problem is that most of the best players leave and go to the English Premiership or abroad — that's the reality."

"They cannot keep the talent at home in Scotland because the league is not regarded with any respect throughout the rest of Europe. Celtic and Rangers are two of the biggest clubs in Europe and have the money to compete with anyone."

"There is no point in having the money, however, if you are not able to spend it because you have trouble attracting players to your league. It's like having no money at all."

Mazzola's warning comes on the back of the news

this week that Celtic have lost the services of both Simon Donnelly and Phil O'Donnell to Sheffield Wednesday under freedom of contract.

The SPL has also come under scrutiny and some severe criticism from commentators who attribute the recent victories by the Old Firm to the falling standard of competition.

Meanwhile, Paul Scholes was Manchester United's flame-haired super-sub on a night of nerve-tingling European tension.

He came off the bench 14 minutes from the end of

this frantic tie to score the vital goal two minutes from time which takes United into the semi-finals of the European Champions League.

United boss Alex Ferguson said of his team: "They were fantastic and in open play they were simply excellent. I am very proud of them."

Referring to past failures in the European arena he added: "There have been times when we haven't had any real luck and tonight we had that little bit of luck."

"Let's hope we can go all the way. We deserve to."

## EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS CUP

In Haifa: Maccabi Haifa (Israel) 0 Lokomotiv Moscow (Russia) 1

Halftime: 0-0; Attendance: 16,000

Scorer: Igor Tchogainov 72pen

Lokomotiv win 4-0 on aggregate

In Oslo: Valerenga (Norway) 2 Chelsea (England) 3

Scorers:

Valerenga - Fredrik Kjolner 26, John Carew 42

Chelsea - Gianluca Vialli 13, Bernard Lambourde 15, Tore Andre Flo 32

Halftime: 2-3; Attendance: 17,936

Chelsea win 6-2 on aggregate

In Rome: Lazio (Italy) 3 Panionios Athens (Greece) 0

Scorers: Pavel Nedved 70, Dejan Stankovic 77, Ivan De la Pena 82

Halftime: 0-0; Attendance: 15,000

Lazio win 7-0 on aggregate

In Mallorca: Mallorca (Spain) 3 Varteks Varazdin (Croatia) 1

Scorers:

Mallorca - Ariel Ibagaza 53, Veljko Paunovic 55, Dani Garcia 70

Varteks Varazdin - Andrija Balajic 88

Halftime: 0-0; Attendance: 18,000

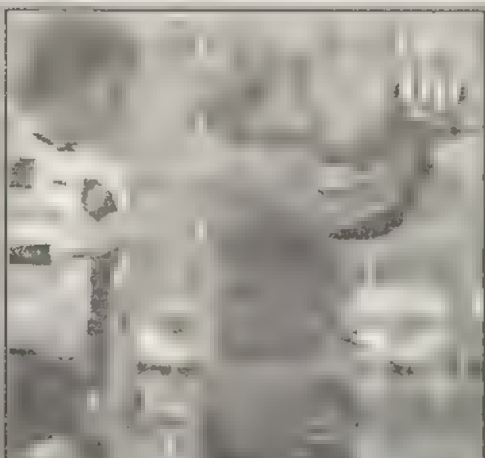
Mallorca win 3-1 on aggregate





# EUROPE

## BAYERN'S RECORD RUN



Bayern keeper Kahn in action against Werder.

Goalkeeper Oliver Kahn set a Bundesliga record for keeping goals out on Saturday as Bayern Munich profited from a late goal from Carsten Jancker to beat Werder Bremen 1-0 on Saturday.

Bayern failed to shine at home but still recorded their eighth successive league victory, with Jancker striking from close range with three minutes left.

But the day's hero was Kahn. The Germany keeper has managed 723 minutes without conceding a goal - 82 minutes longer than Oliver Reck, who held the previous record with 641 minutes for Werder Bremen in the 1987/88 season.

Three days after their impressive 4-0 demolition of German champions Kaiserslautern for a place in the semifinals of the European Cup, Bayern, missing several key players, had an indifferent game by their standards.

Bremen, who were the better team and came close to scoring when Ukrainian midfielder Yuri Maximov hit the post in the 75th minute, will face Bayern again in the German Cup final on June 12 in Berlin.

"We were lucky to win this one," said Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld, who had to do without Brazilian striker Elber, midfielder Mario Basler and defender Markus Babel, all injured.

"We found it very difficult to get into the match but that's understandable when you are missing important players," he added. "What I liked is the team did not want just a draw and kept fighting for victory."

The Munich club are a comfortable 14 points clear of second-placed Kaiserslautern, who won 2-1 at lowly VfL Bochum thanks to a goal from striker Uwe Roesler four minutes from time.

Andreas Zeyer put the home side ahead three minutes from the interval. Brazilian midfielder Ratinho levelled for Kaiserslautern in the 59th minute.

A last-minute goal from midfielder Marcel Ketelaer enabled bottom of the table Borussia Moenchengladbach to snatch a 2-2 draw at VfB Stuttgart and snatch a precious point in their fight to escape relegation.

Stuttgart moved 2-0 up with goals from Hungarian midfielder Krisztian Lisztes and Bulgarian playmaker Krassimir Balakov in the 19th and 60th minutes respectively.

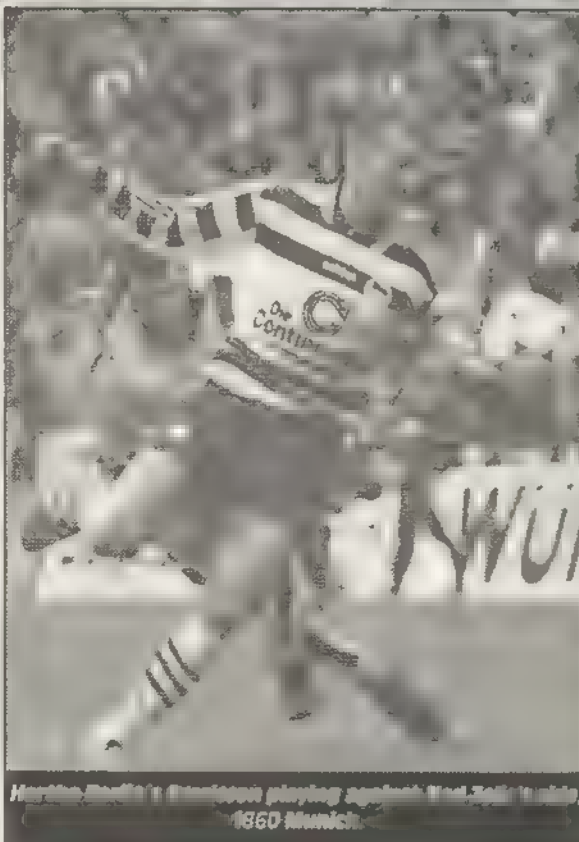
Defender Michael Frontzeck restored hope for Moenchengladbach by reducing the arrears in the 67th minute.

"It will be tough but we're not giving up," said Moenchengladbach coach Rainer Bonhof, who helped the club to five German titles and two UEFA Cup victories in the 1970s.

Manchester United, who knocked Inter Milan out of the European Cup on Wednesday, have again been paired with Italian opposition in the semifinals - this time their old rivals Juventus.

Dynamo Kiev will face Bayern Munich in the other semifinal with the ties to be played on April 7 and 21. It will be the third time in three seasons that United and Juventus meet in Europe's most prestigious club competition after being drawn in the same Champions League group in 1996-97 and again last season.

In 1996-97 Juventus won 1-0 both at home and away while last season United won 3-2 at Old Trafford and Juventus won 1-0 in Turin.



Marco Reus of Borussia Dortmund playing against Bayern Munich. 1960 Munich.

Juventus director Romy Gai said the club had "got the draw that the coach (Carlo Ancelotti) wants."

"We prefer to play them over two games instead of one, we believe we have a better chance. Our experience will be a big help."

But British bookmakers William Hill fancy United. They are quoted at 8/11 ON to reach the final with Juventus at even money.

They make United 2/1 favourites to win the Cup. Juventus are priced at 5/2, Bayern 11/4 and Kiev 100/30.

United, who will be at home in the first leg of their semifinal, had never knocked an Italian team out of Europe in 42 years of trying until they beat Inter Milan 3-1 on aggregate in the quarter-finals on Wednesday.

United secretary Ken Merrett said of the draw: "Once you get this far you do not have much of a choice but it seems every year in Europe we draw Juventus."

"What is important is remembering who is playing well this particular season, not who was playing well last season."

Bayern face a tough match against Kiev who eliminated holders Real Madrid in the quarter-finals.

Bayern's business manager Karl Hopfner said: "Kiev are very strong...but when you get to this point of the competition it does not really matter who you are drawn against."

Italian clubs Parma and Bologna were kept apart when the draw was made for the UEFA Cup semifinals.

Parma were drawn to play Atletico Madrid and Bologna to meet Olympique Marseille of France.

The semifinals are on April 6 and 20 with the final in Moscow on May 12.

In the European Cup Winners' Cup, holders Chelsea and favourites Lazio of Italy stay on course to meet in the final.

Chelsea were drawn to play Real Mallorca while Lazio will face Lokomotiv Moscow. The semifinals are on April 8 and 22 with the final at Villa Park, Birmingham, on May 19.

The European Cup final is in Barcelona on May 26.

## NETS UP FOR 17

Spanish international striker Ismael Urzaiz scored Athletic Bilbao a point at Espanyol with a spectacular goal two minutes into injury time to give the Basque side a 1-1 draw on Saturday.

Urzaiz got his 13th goal of the season when he chested down a Joseba Etxeberria cross with his back to goal and unleashed an overhead shot past Espanyol goalkeeper Toni Jimenez.

Espanyol had taken the lead after 20 minutes. Raul Tamayo headed home his first goal for the Barcelona-based club since his recent return from a loan spell with second division Lugo.

Irish soccer officials are worried that next weekend's European Championship soccer game against Macedonia in Skopje may be called off because of the increasing likelihood of air strikes on military installations in nearby Yugoslavia.

The Irish are hearing reports that military personnel are assembling in Skopje and taking up all the hotel rooms as NATO prepares for possible strikes on Yugoslavia after Friday's breakdown of peace talks over Kosovo.

"We have been informed about our hotel situation in Skopje and apparently there are people sleeping in the corridors," said Bernard Byrne, chief executive of the Football Association of Ireland.

We have sent a fax to the Macedonian FA

asking for reassurances regarding accommodation for the team and the official party."

Ireland's game against Yugoslavia in Belgrade was postponed for because of threatened air strikes and next weekend's match between Yugoslavia and Croatia also is in doubt.

Dozens of Crvena Zvezda and Partizan fans were hurt in clashes between fans of the two rival Belgrade teams before and during a local derby on Saturday. Fifteen Yugoslav fans were injured, one of them seriously, and sixty arrested in a clash before the match, the Tanjug news agency reported.

During the match angry fans began tearing up plastic seats, provoking a police intervention. A Reuters photographer saw a policeman with blood streaming from his face after being cut by a sharp sliver of plastic.

The match ended 2-2 with Zvezda's Goran Dragic being sent off.

The stadium is due to be the venue for a high-risk Euro 2000 qualifier between Yugoslavia and Croatia on March 27 but the failure of the Kosovo peace talks has cast a shadow of doubt over this match.

## BORDEAUX MAINTAIN LEAD IN FRANCE

Girondins Bordeaux bounced back from their UEFA Cup humiliation in Parma to beat Strasbourg 1-0 at home and retain their one-point lead in the French league championship on Saturday.

Olympique Marseille stayed hot on their heels with a 4-1 victory over ten-man Lorient at the Velodrome including two goals by their Italian striker Fabrizio Ravanelli.

Bordeaux captain Michel Pavon, whose side were crushed 6-0 at Parma in the second leg of their UEFA Cup quarter-final in midweek, headed home a cross from Spanish winger Ivan Perez in the 11th minute for the only goal at Parc Lescure.

Paris St Germain celebrated their first match under their third coach of the season, Philippe Bergeroo, with a 1-0 win at AJ Auxerre. Striker Bruno Rodriguez scored.

Olympique Marseille 4 Lorient 1 ... Fabrizio Ravanelli took his league tally to 11 with two goals, a superb free kick after the early dismissal of Lorient goalkeeper Angelo Hugues for handling outside the box, and Marseille's third in the 72nd.

Florian Maurice is on 12 goals after his brilliant chip from the edge of the box.

Substitute Jocelyn Gourvennec's penalty completed Marseille's account, while Pascal Camadini pulled one back for Lorient two minutes from time.

Le Havre 1 Olympique Lyon 0 ... Striker Cyrille Pouget, taking a low right cross from midfielder Lilian Nalis, scored in the 38th minute for his first goal since recently ending a six-month suspension for doping.

Lyon had been reduced to 10 men five minutes earlier by the dismissal of Swiss striker Marco Grassi for elbowing an opponent in the face.

Rennes 1 Toulouse 0 ... Striker Nicolas Gousse scored the only goal in the third minute of injury time to keep Rennes in the race for third place and end Toulouse's five-match unbeaten run under Alain Giresse.

Metz 0 RC Lens 1 ... Striker Philippe Brunel hit a superb dipping volley just under the bar from the edge of the box 17 seconds into the second half to give Lens the points and lift them to sixth.

AJ Auxerre 0 Paris St Germain 1 ... A cross from the right by PSG captain Marco Simone had the Auxerre defense in disarray and the ball bounced off central defender Frederic Danjou to a grateful Bruno Rodriguez who drove home his third goal for the Parisians and ninth of the season.

Montpellier 0 Sochaux 0 ... Midfielder Marcel Mahouze failed to emulate Rennes' Gousse with an injury-time winner, his 25-meter shot three minutes into injury time bouncing back off the base of the post.

Bastia 1 Nancy 2 ... Nancy picked up three invaluable points in the fight against relegation with goals by Uruguayan Pablo Correa and a Christophe Bastien penalty either side of Yugoslav substitute Nebojsa Krupnikovic's equaliser for Bastia.

The Corsicans had goalkeeper Eric Durand sent off five minutes from time for handling the ball outside the box.

Nantes 0 Monaco 1 ... A goal on the hour by Sabri Lamouchi, laid on by a David Trezeguet header, ended Nantes' unbeaten home record after they had dominated Monaco throughout the first half.



# UK

## There's STILL Something About Harry

**Soccer Weekly's Melissa Muscat reminisces about schooldays with Leeds' Aussie Superstar ...**

**T**here was always something about Harry that said he was going to be a superstar. Not that he was physically bigger than any of the other students at school, nor was he anymore popular.

At the time, he was just Harry Kewell, another student of Westfields

same boy who today is earning millions of dollars playing in the English Premier League, doing Australia proud.

While most of the students were aware of Harry's soccer talent, not many of us dreamed he would be where he is today. And who would?

There is nothing unusual about another 16 year old boy playing soccer, attending a public sports school in Sydney's west.

Who would dream that the modest boy saying hello walking across the playground, would one day be playing against world greats such as David Beckham, Robbie Fowler and Paul Gascoigne?

If we had known, there would have been a lot more of us with his autograph in our year book.

Harry was well respected and well liked amongst his fellow peers and teachers at school. It would be fair to say he was a quiet achiever. He was quite modest about his soccer achievements even after his signing with Leeds. Following his departure for England, many of us were asking what happened to him.

The one thing Phil Tucker, Principal of Westfields Sports High, remembers about Harry is that he always had great technical skill and vision.

"I have one memory of Harry. One year he was playing in the Commonwealth Bank Cup and with his back to the goals he chested the ball and before it even hit the ground he struck it with his left foot and released the ball to a teammate. He didn't even have to look, he just knew who was there and what he was doing."

One of Harry's teachers who also knew there was something about him



Kewell the Jewell ... Harry with one of his Aussie fans on a recent visit



Just a face in the crowd ... Harry Kewell at school

Sports High in the Year 11 class of 1995. It could have been his trademark long hair which he has recently shaved, but somehow I think it had more to do with his unique left foot than anything else.

Whatever it was, that boy that sat next to us in General Studies class is the

was Sydney United defender David Barrett.

"Harry always had a one track mind, he always knew he was going to be a soccer player. I remember him dancing around with a tennis ball on the back oval every lunch time. No-one was able to get it off him."

I think when one hears the name Harry Kewell it triggers off at least one memory. There is something that each one of us remembers about him. Some remember him for soccer attributes and others for different reasons. I remember one girl from school, Sarah, who always had a crush on him."

Every lunch break she would time his movements so they would cross each other on the playground, just so he would be forced to say hello. She would constantly say, "There's just something about him." Well there definitely was and still is which makes Harry Kewell the soccer legend he is today.

By the time our year 12 formal had arrived, many of us (mostly females) were hoping Harry would be there. This would have been our last chance at getting our picture taken with him.

Unfortunately he was unable to make it so we had to settle with the year photograph (pictured left) which was taken in Year 11 as proof that we really did attend the same school as the famous Harry Kewell.

So kids out there in school, make friends with the Soccer players, they are the ones who could be world superstars, and you too, like me, may say 'I knew him when...'

## CHECK THE PASTA HAS FERGIE IN HOT WATER

Alex Ferguson is not a person normally known for controversial statements. But, before the Inter game, he let the Italians have it, using pasta as a metaphor for poor player behaviour.

The United boss launched a war of words with Inter and Italian football in general before the first leg of their European tie when he claimed: "When an Italian says it's pasta, I check under the sauce."

And he continued his tirade ahead of the second leg by insisting that Inter's tactics would include "scheming, diving, referee-baiting — the full repertoire."

Lucas was incensed by Ferguson's latest outburst and he warned that the comments could stir up violence among the Milan supporters (which proved correct to a limited degree).

"The messages coming from Alex Ferguson and United might incite crowd trouble and will certainly make for a bad atmosphere," he said.

"What he has said is a sad thing and a bad thing but maybe he has done this because he is afraid."

But UEFA admit that their hands are tied unless Lucas, Inter Milan or the Italian football federation make a formal complaint against Fergie.

"If we did receive a complaint, we would have to look at it because we cannot accept racism of any kind. There is something about racism in our statute," said a UEFA spokesman.

Last week we reported on Mark Bosnich's attempts to help his teammate Stan Collymore with a dose of Dr Boz's psychoanalysis. It may not have worked and now the errant player is in line for offloading.

Manager John Gregory confirmed "That is one possibility we might need to consider, depending on how things develop with Stan during the next few weeks."

With Collymore due to continue receiving treatment for clinical depression for the foreseeable future, Villa's plan centres around claims he is no longer fit to play Premiership soccer.

That would also involve a financial settlement for the remaining two seasons on Collymore's contract, worth around £2.1m to the 28-year-old ex-England international.

But in a further move, Villa are likely to explore their chances of recouping part of the club record fee Collymore cost from Liverpool in 1997. Stan the Man is insured for the full £7m, despite his plummeting value in today's market.

Villa would hope to claw back up to half that amount on the basis that £20,000-a-week Collymore has served out only two of the four years in his contract when he arrived from Anfield.

Collymore's Villa career has been on the line ever since last summer's widely-condemned incident when he launched a physical assault on former girlfriend Ulrika Jonsson.

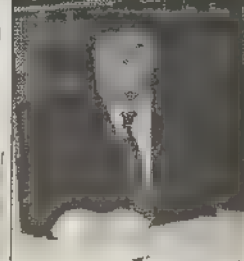
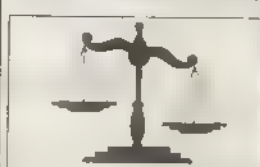
Collymore has still started only ten Premiership matches this season. His seven-goal tally includes three against Norwegian part-timers Stromsgodset in the UEFA Cup, two against Hull City in the FA Cup and just one in the Premiership. Recently, Gregory tried to off-load Collymore by offering him in part exchange plus £5m for Nottingham Forest's Steve Stone.

When Collymore turned down the idea, Villa were still able to get England winger Stone for £5.5m in cash, underlining Gregory's rockbottom valuation of stressed-out Stan.

Throughout the Collymore saga, Gregory has always maintained a sceptical attitude towards the striker's off-the-field trauma. And it looks like Gregory will act on it sooner rather than later.

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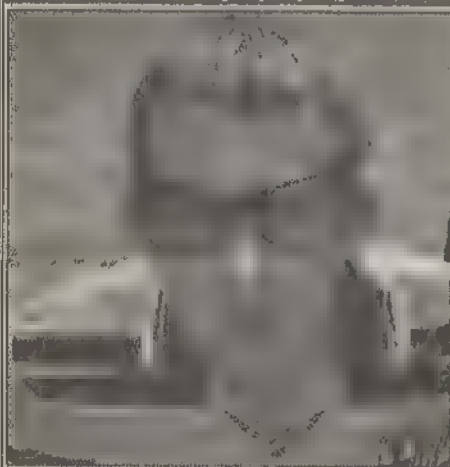
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# UK WITH CRAZY CRAIG WILSON



The Crazy office is becoming a battleground as lads argue the merits of Perth Glory and Northern Spirit. Kevin Stapleton is sporting a shiner he gained in a fight with Little Jimmy. The quest on which club has better embraced the idea of 'fan culture'? As an impartial umpire I've sent them both for early showers. For my money, both clubs have built an excellent dialogue with supporters groups, and are reaping the rewards.

As Kevin said (before he returned from suspension), the game is not just about what happens between the touchlines. It's about what happens on The Hill. Spirit Point and The Shed are about the whole experience. Going to the pub, meeting your mates, singing bad songs badly, drinking too much on the way back from Edensor, and peeing

on your shoes in the toilets at Redfern.

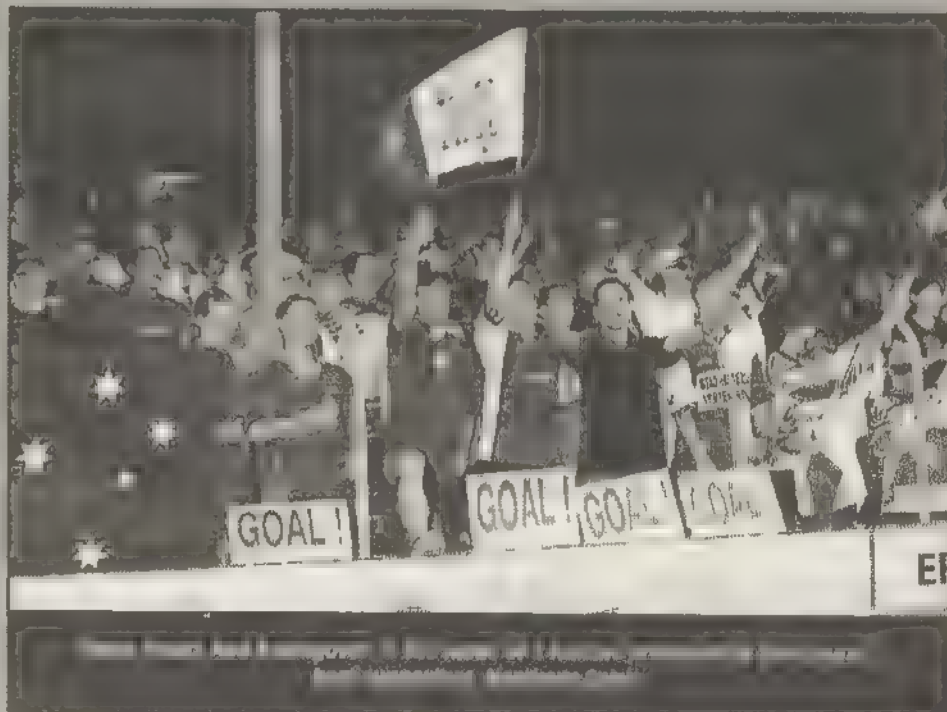
The recent explosion of Australian soccer fanzines, isn't unrelated. Fanzines are unofficial magazines, created on home computers, photocopied, and distributed amongst the faithful. Full of nostalgia, biting humour, and gut feeling, they're an opportunity to let off steam and talk about being a supporter. Produced on a shoestring, they still make a loss, but the creators produce them for the love of the game. This year has seen a renaissance on the zine scene.

The original Aussie soccer zine is **Studs Up!** [PO Box 53, Oakleigh South, VIC 3167]. While it's undoubtedly the worst laid out, it's still probably the best in the southern hemisphere. Covering all aspects of the game, the blokes at Studs Up! have a fresh and vital outlook. They include important examinations of people making the news, and their laudable series of interviews with older players and coaches (the forgotten heroes of our code) truly reposition soccer on the Aussie sporting landscape.

**The Farr Post** [PO Box 478, Bulimba, QLD 4171] is an independent look at football in Queensland. Shot through with a healthy dose of constructive criticism, The Farr Post is the only fanzine with a colour cover. Two articles deal with visits to North Sydney Oval, showing the impact

Spirit have made on the game. There is a discussion of behaviour by fans at games, and of the problems many Queensland supporters have with Suncorp. This sense of what it means to be a supporter makes The Farr Post not only valuable, but a useful research tool for the marketing people.

It's like a coming of age. A club really hasn't arrived until it has an unofficial fanzine or website dedicated to it. It says something about the growth of Northern Spirit that **Three Points** and a



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**Hangover** [PO Box 367, Alexandria, NSW 2015] was pressed into a Crazy palm at a recent game.

These beer brains have put together an intelligent and affectionate tribute to the team and the nutters who follow it. The first issue features interviews with Spirit head honcho Mark Goldberg, Paul Henderson, and Remo Nogarotto. Best and fairest was a pub guide which included a review of the toilets, and 'stagging time to the ground'. Little Jimmy says it's what football's all about?

**My Blue Heaven** [PO Box 13078, Law Courts, Melbourne 3000], is produced by Carlton fan Sayy Orpin, and looks at the astonishing success of the Carlton soccer club. This issue judges 'The Ten Best Carlton Goals Ever', and looks at the possible impact of new owners and a new ground.

The team have done a great job on a limited budget. They hand it out free before games, so you'll have to be quick to pick up a copy. Although it is still fresh-faced and naive, this is an energetic and feisty little number that can only get better.

Last and by no means least is **Sitter!** [c/o Bruce Holloway, 11 Thames Street, Hamilton, New Zealand] the Kiwi soccer zine. There's talk about the Confederations Cup, Kiwis playing abroad, and a tour of Christchurch soccer grounds. 40 pages for \$3NZ dollars is a bargain in itself, but when the writing is this good (Bruce was NZ soccer writer of the year) you know you'd be a fool to miss a Sitter!

[When sending for information on fanzines, always remember to include an stamped self-addressed envelope].

## SUPPORTERS CLUBS

**F**ar from home? Homesick without your home team? Keep in touch via a new feature in which we keep you up to date with your Australian supporters clubs.

Name: Cardiff City Supporters Club, Australia.  
Contact: John Newman (I'm from the Valleys)  
Address: 15 Swallow Drive, Erskine Park, NSW 2759



I've been in Australia for 21 years now, and the supporters club has been formed for five. It started when I began to meet other people who were fans of the Bluebirds, and we decided to set up a supporters group. We've twenty five members now and it's a very social thing. We have regular meetings. Once a month we get together at a pub or a members house, and talk about great games we went to, get a bit nostalgic, show videos.

"We get the Cardiff fanzines sent out. They're great because they keep you in touch with what is really happening. We know a lot of people over there who keep us up to date. The supporters club in Cardiff is very good, but the football club itself is a bit too official. The stuff we want to know we get from other supporters.

"Membership is free and everyone is welcome. We used to have a newsletter, but it stopped because we see each other on such a regular basis. We are a bunch of good mates. Adrian Alston, who played in the 1974 World Cup for Australia, used to play for Cardiff City. He won 62 caps for the Socceroos and scored 17 goals.

"Swansea City, our great rivals, don't have a supporters club here. We're proud of that fact. Despite the distance, the old antagonism doesn't go away. And this season it looks as though we'll be promoted, so there is a good feeling about being a Cardiff City fan right now."

Email Crazy Craig at [magicsponge@hotmail.com](mailto:magicsponge@hotmail.com)



Compiled by

UK

Soccer Weekly

## STAN'S AGENT STILL GETS PAID!!

London's High Court this week came down with a decision that would shock many fans of so-called footballer Stan Collymore.

Colin Murphy won £78,000 plus costs against his old employer Southend, as his slice of Stan Collymore's startling success in the transfer market.

The compensation will come from the pockets of the 3,000 hardy souls who turn up at Roots Hall to try and help their club fend off non-league status.

At the same time, the subject of the compo sits in a clinic on £20,000-a-week contemplating whether he can be bothered to get off his butt and kick a ball around - or have another go on his Nintendo. We're doomed Captain Mainwaring. Doomed.

Premiership strugglers Southampton have accused football's hierarchy of double standards after their attempt to sign Latvian striker Marians Pahars fell through when a work permit was refused - twice.

Furious Saints saw the 21-year-old Skonto Riga star as a possible answer to their problems - and agreed to sign him in a bargain £800,000 deal.

But the Department of Employment has thrown out Saints' application for a work permit on two occasions, after consulting the FA, the PFA and the Premier League.

Southampton chairman Rupert Lowe said: "We believe that we have been treated unfairly. It's a sad footballing decision when you have got a chance to sign a quality player from outside Europe at a price a club like ours can afford."

In Scotland, Kjell Olofsson grabbed the only goal of the game on the stroke of half time to earn ten-man United a deserved victory at Ibrox - and hand champions Celtic a glimmer of hope of retaining the League title.

Ten points clear at the start of the day, Dick Advocaat's men suffered a rare nightmare when United's big Swede hammered the ball high into the net after John Eustace caught the home defence flat-footed with an inch-perfect through-ball.

United, despite had Magnus Skoldmark sent off for a second booking in the 64th minute, held out under late pressure to ease any lingering relegation fears.

Rangers: Klos, Porrini, Amoroso, Wilson, Vidmar, Kanchelskis, Van Bronckhorst, Albrecht, McCann, Wallace, Johansson. Subs: Amato, McInnes, Nicholson, Miller, McGregor.

Dundee Utd: Dykstra, Jonsson, Duffy, De Vos, Skoldmark, McCulloch, Easton, Hannah, Eustace, Dodds, Olofsson. Subs: Patterson, Mathie, Miller, Thompson, Gallacher. Referee: M Clark (Edinburgh)

In the English First Division Barnsley lost at Oakwell 3-2. Aussies Muscat and Corica featured prominently.

John Hendrie's side looked to be heading for their first home league win of 1999 when they scored twice in as many minutes in the first half.

The hero and villain of the Wolves performance was Yorkshire-born defender Dean Richards. The ex-Bradford City stopper had put The Tykes in front with an unfortunate own goal, but he had the final say when he crowned his side's magnificent fight-back with a firmly-struck winner in the dying seconds.

Barnsley had gone in front in the 31st minute with their first goal at Oakwell for 300 minutes. It came from a slick move involving midfielder Craig Hignett and striker Mike Sheron. Hignett's angled lob came back off the far post and the unfortunate Richards could only stab the ball into his own net.

It was 2-0 just two minutes later, Scott Jones found the bottom corner with a 20-yard free-kick. The visitors grabbed a vital goal just five minutes before the break. Muscat produced a peach of a cross for fellow defender Neil Emblen to plant a firm glancing header past the helpless Tony Bullock from ten yards.

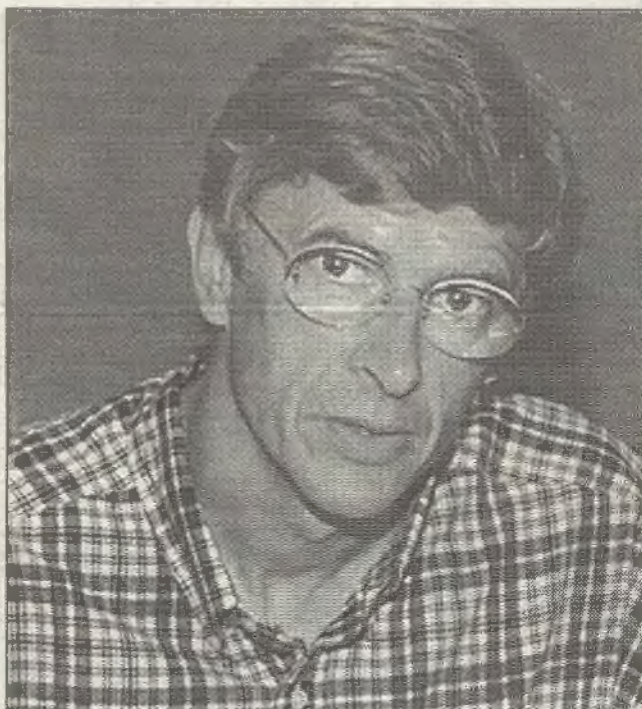
David Connolly latched onto a long free-kick from Richards, held off Dutch defender Arjan De Zeeuw before firing past Bullock from just inside the box.

Then in the 90th minute, a Michael Gilkes cross was not cleared by the Barnsley defence, the ball fell for Richards just inside the penalty area and he produced a terrific low drive that flew across Bullock and into the far corner for the winner.

## WENGER WANTS PETIT TO STAY

Arsene Wenger has set about trying to convince Manu Petit that he should stay with the champions of England.

The Arsenal manager was reacting to Mirror Sport's story that Petit believes he is being driven out by over-officious referees.



Arsene Wenger... will hope to convince his star man to stay.

Petit told The Mirror: "If I'm going to be shown the red card every time I open my mouth, or make a mistake, I'm wasting my time here. I'm not even sure that winning the Double again can change my mind."

But Wenger believes his charm offensive will prevent Arsenal from losing their World Cup-winning midfielder. Emerging after long talks, he said: "I am now convinced Manu will be with us next year."

Petit was on his knees after his third sending-off of the season at Everton last Saturday, and Inter Milan and Lazio are waiting to pounce with £12million bids.

Wenger reminded Petit of the huge failure rate in Italy and what they did to his team-mate Dennis Bergkamp while he played in Milan.

But Wenger knows that if Petit collects another yellow card against Coventry City his season is virtually over.

Wenger said: "He could go to Inter Milan tomorrow, a club that has won everything. But what is important in your career is to know where you have a chance to achieve something. And the potential here at Arsenal is huge."

"In Italy they buy, and then throw away as quickly as they buy. I think Petit knows what he has done here, and what he can get from English football. I believe he will be part of our team next year. I will keep our conversation private. But he will be here without any doubt."

"There was a frustration after Everton last Saturday. I can understand that."

"He was not happy with the way he played. He was not happy being sent off. But he knows how much the fans love him and how much football in England has brought to him."

## SUTTON RELIEVED AT ENGLAND RECALL, FA WANT KEEGAN LONG-TERM

Chris Sutton admitted that it was a shock when Kevin Keegan recalled him, mainly because he is not quite fit.

The Blackburn striker was stunned that his international exile had been ended at the time when he is still struggling for match fitness.

Sutton's relief that his "mistake" in snubbing Glenn Hoddle has been forgiven by the powers that be is matched by the irony he feels at seeing his name in an England squad when he has done little to deserve it.

The striker, who carries Blackburn's hopes of safety, said: "It's a bit of a surprise, a pleasant one all the same. I only started playing again last week and I know that my fitness is not fully there yet. This has been a disaster of a season for me personally with injuries and whatnot. I'm still working to get back to my best."

"But I'm very proud to be called up by my country. At the moment I'm still some way off being right, but it's nice to be recognised."

Sutton had lived in fear that his England days were over after refusing to play in a 'B' international to the fury of Hoddle a year ago. He read in the former manager's book that he would never be selected again.

But fate - and some ill chosen words - played a hand, and now Sutton is living proof that Keegan can stick to his word when he says everyone's late is

clean.

Sutton said: "Every- thing else is all in the past. I can now look forward to the future. I'm so pleased to be called up. I know things have happened before, I was always hopeful and now I can put that situation behind me."

"I made a mistake with what I did, and now I'm happy just to look forward. It's been a funny season for me, I've tried to get a run of games together, but it's not happened. There will be great competition for a game and I think there are far more established players ahead of me."

"It's just good to be involved again. I enjoyed it last time and I will go there again and hope to enjoy it once more."

Sutton will put those happy thoughts behind him for 90 minutes today and concentrate on the task ahead, keeping ailing Blackburn in the Premiership.

FA CHIEFS plan to again formally offer Kevin Keegan the chance to stay on and finish the job with England. I understand that the FA will not rush into any new appointment until they make a final bid to keep Keegan.

The FA have been encouraged by Keegan's enthusiasm for the task. And Keegan himself has been surprised by how much he is enjoying it.

The new manager will be cheered into Wembley for the Poland game.

And if the fans are still cheering at the end, and

the media continue to back him, then the FA believe he might have a change of heart.

Keegan is already convinced that the players he has selected are good enough to beat Poland, and then Sweden and Bulgaria.

He is relishing taking England through to the Euro 2000 finals and the FA want him to stay on to give England every chance of winning their first tournament since the World Cup in 1966.

Keegan said: "We need to win all three, and that is not bravado, it is just looking at the table."

"Everyone would say the same thing, the supporters and the media. And I am convinced that we are capable of doing that."

"We will need to work together as a unit and, of course, you will need touch of luck."

Keegan has called up two teenagers for the England future, Jonathan Woodgate of Leeds and Steve Gerrard of Liverpool, who will train with the squad.

If they blossom, the boss will find it harder than ever to walk away from the job in hand, although he claimed: "I'm just looking at the four games."

But as Keegan left the door open for Paul Gascoigne, Matt Le Tissier, Paul Merson and Les Ferdinand, the door is open for him to stay on long term for England.

These will be interesting times for England's national team.



Keegan joking with the press pack midweek



Compiled by and written by

Daryl Katz

UK

League highlights

## BLACKBURN V WIMBLEDON

Brian Kidd's injury-hit Blackburn Rovers moved out of the relegation zone on Saturday, defeating a fast-fading Wimbledon side 3-1 at Ewood Park.

With Wimbledon manager Joe Kinnear still recovering from a heart attack, his side were blown away by a stunning first half display from Rovers.

Chris Sutton forced a fine save from Neil Sullivan as early as the second minute when he connected with a Jason Wilcox corner, but the Scottish international pushed the ball over the crossbar.

Ashley Ward should have opened the scoring for Blackburn in the fifth minute, but with the goal gaping he failed to get his foot to another Wilcox delivery.

Just three minutes later, Ward atoned for his error. Sutton found Matt Jansen on the left and the striker crossed low for Ward, who forced the ball home from five yards.

Just 10 minutes later, Sutton lobbed Dario Marcolin's excellent ball goalwards. Jansen followed in, and despite the attentions of Alan Kimble and Ben Thatcher he managed to force the ball over the line.

Rovers were rampant by now and threatened to overrun the visitors. In the 26th minute, the home side were three goals to the good.

Ward looked set to add his second of the game but hit his shot against Sullivan. When Wimbledon failed to

clear the rebound, Jansen pounced to drive home Blackburn's third.

Rovers goalkeeper John Filan finally made a save in the 32nd minute, collecting a tame cross from Neal Ardley.

Dons co-coaches Mick Harford and David Kemp made two changes at the break to prevent further humiliation, Ardley and John Hartson replaced by Efan Ekoku and Ceri Hughes.

The second half did not match the quality or the excitement of the first. Although the changes settled the game down, they came too late to affect the result.

Jansen left the field to a standing ovation just before the hour, but even the removal of Rovers' danger man failed to ignite the visitors.

Wimbledon captain Robbie Earle forced a save from Filan on the hour when his bicycle-kick connected with a Kimble free-kick. Five minutes later, the Dons finally gave themselves a lifeline through an excellent Jason Euell strike. Michael Hughes hit a perfectly timed cross for the striker who fired home on the volley from six yards.

This was to be Blackburn's day however, and Brian Kidd will be hoping that this is the beginning of the long haul to safety.

## LEEDS V DERBY

Leeds United equalled a club record at Elland Road on Saturday with a sixth successive league victory, defeating Derby County 4-1.

The win also pushed David O'Leary's side well into contention for a Champions League berth next season as they continue their impressive run of form.

The result dented Derby's own dreams of Europe and ended their recent revival which had seen the Rams move up to sixth place on the table.

Leeds launched a devastating first half fightback after falling behind to a Francesco Baiano penalty following a foul by Lucas Radebe on Greek wing-back Vas Borbokis.

The home side again proved irresistible as they swept the Rams aside over the course of the next 40 minutes with three fully deserved goals.

Winger Willem Korsten, who looks certain to be signed by O'Leary in the summer when his loan spell from Vitesse Arnhem comes to an end, signalled United's intent with a 15-yard left-foot drive which was narrowly wide of recalled keeper Mart Poom's left-hand post.

Within two minutes Leeds were level. Jimmy-Floyd Hasselbaink crossed from the right and Spencer Prior blocked Lee Bowyer's initial shot. The midfielder would not be denied however, and fired home at the

second attempt.

The Dutch international striker then followed up his free-kick special at Sheffield Wednesday last week with another sublime dead-ball drive for United's second.

Derby's problems increased five minutes before the break when an accidental collision with Harry Kewell led to influential captain and centreback Igor Stimac being carried from the field.

United took advantage of a Derby side down to the bare bones. Hasselbaink was again the supplier just before the break, this time with a neatly-flicked through ball to fellow Dutchman Korsten from the left wing.

Korsten was in the act of falling backwards when he just managed to squeeze an acutely-angled left-foot shot beyond Poom.

Leeds took their foot off the gas in the second half, but retained control, scoring their fourth five minutes from time. Left-back Ian Harte cut across the Derby area and let fly with a 22-yard right-foot shot which flew into Poom's top left corner.

Another rapturous round of applause from a 39,000 crowd echoed around Elland Road at the final whistle in appreciation of yet another fine performance from O'Leary's young side.

## SOUTH'TON V SHEFF WED.

Southampton boosted their chances of premiership survival at The Dell on Saturday, securing a 1-0 victory over Sheffield Wednesday courtesy of a Matt Le Tissier headed goal.

While the England midfielder has a catalog of spectacular strikes to his credit, the close range header that sunk the Owls may yet prove as vital as any.

Southampton had the better of the first half, veteran striker Mark Hughes almost breaking the deadlock in the eighth minute.

Typifying the strength of spirit with which Southampton had opened, the Welshman seized on a loose ball on the edge of the area and rifled a shot goalward, forcing a fine save from Pavel Smicek.

Chris Marsden also went within a whisker of opening the scoring. The Sheffield-born midfielder combined with Le Tissier and crashed a left foot shot past Smicek, only to see it rebound off the post. Des Walker was on hand to hoist the ball to safety.

Wednesday had little rhythm going forward in the first half but they managed to hold out in defence until just before the interval. Matthew Oakley crossed from

the left wing and Le Tissier found himself unchallenged at the back post as he chalked up his sixth of the season.

Southampton could have sealed the game after the break with a series of chances.

Hughes went close twice, Le Tissier came within inches of scoring with a trademark free-kick and Smicek made a top class stop from a low drive by Hassan Kachoul.

Egil Ostenstad should have done better with two chances which came his way.

The Norwegian had a shot saved by Smicek and then completely misjudged a free header in front of goal.

Petter Rudi came closest for the visitors. He grazed the crossbar with a fizzing drive following confusion in the Saints defence.

Saints goalkeeper Paul Jones produced a reflex save to deny Benito Carbone and Ken Monkou made a vital challenge on Andy Booth in front of goal.

Danny Wilson's side rallied briefly in search of an equaliser but never truly threatened to spoil the day for the Saints.

## NOTTS FOREST V M'BORO

Middlesbrough secured a 2-1 victory over Nottingham Forest at the City Ground on Saturday, dragging themselves clear of the relegation battle while virtually sealing the fate of Ron Atkinson's side.

Hamilton Ricard's 15th goal of the season put the Teessiders in front on the half hour. Robbie Mustoe's bull over the top caught out the home defence and Ricard steadied himself, rode the challenge of Jesper Mattsson, then fired home.

Forest are more resilient now than in the last weeks under Harry Bassett, and seven minutes later Dougie Freedman brought his side level. The striker drifted inside and fired a 20-yard shot which soaked just inside the post.

However, even with Pierre van Hooijdonk a danger as he prompted and probed from a position behind the two main strikers, they were only able to beat Mark Schwarzer once.

Boro had a handful of other chances, with Christian

Edwards hacking clear from inside his own six-yard box and Mark Crossley denying Briane Deane on three occasions.

It was Forest who did most to suggest they deserved the three points.

Neil Shipperley headed wide of a gaping goal after beating Mark Schwarzer to an Alan Rogers cross, Mathieu Louis-Jean fired over from 12 yards and Marlon Harewood saw a 25-yard drive fly inches wide of the Boro keeper's right-hand post.

Deane grabbed the winner three minutes from time though, latching on to Mikkel Beck's flick and lobbing Mark Crossley to ensure Boro picked up full points.

Even after they fell behind again, van Hooijdonk curled a free-kick just off target with Schwarzer struggling to get across his goal.

Boro managed to hang on despite Forest's late rally and last season's First Division champions are now bound for an immediate return to the Nationwide League.



Forest look headed for the Nationwide League next season.



Leeds United's Dutch striker Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink is the new free kick specialist at Elland Road following this effort against Derby in their 4-1 win over the Rams.

## WIN FREE SPIRIT GEAR!!

How would you like to win your very own Northern Spirit shirt absolutely free!!!!!! Well, you can. Thanks to our mates at Grace Bros Sporting Edge at Warringah Mall, one lucky reader will win the Northern Spirit home shirt for free.

And for the runners up we have two Northern Spirit Northern Spirit baseball caps, one for each runner up.

We are happy to announce that this store has taken Soccer in a big way, and the fans have responded to make Soccer the fastest selling sport at the store.

And the staff love their Soccer, so what more could a World Game fan want? They stock literally heaps of Soccer gear, it's a proverbial paradise.

• Northern Spirit: Jerseys (adults & kids size) Polos & shirts, Flags,



Angela and Gay fight over their Spirit gear. You too can win your own Spirit merchandise.

Caps, Stubbie Holders, Marconi/Sydney Olympic Polo shirts, Balls Caps, Sydney Utd, Perth Glory, South Melbourne Jerseys

• Socceroos Jerseys adults/kids size and International Jerseys such as Germany, England, Scotland, France, Holland, USA, Spain etc.

• Manchester United Home/Away/Third and long sleeve home shirt, plus Chelsea, Celtic and a huge range of Umbro training jerseys, and umbro shorts in a big range of colours. Plus more on the way.

And don't forget Grace Bros City store (level 4) has a great range of Soccer gear, including the polo shirts from Sydney Olympic and Marconi.

Don't worry, if you live a distance

from the Warringah Shopping Centre, any Grace Bros in Sydney will get the gear from another store if need be.

To win this great competition simply do this: send in an envelope to OH BABY! WANT MY SPIRIT SHIRT COMP, SOCCER WEEKLY, 7 GARNERS AVE, MARRICKVILLE NSW, 2204.

First prize is a Northern Spirit home short (XL). Second and third prize is a Northern Spirit baseball cap. We will draw the prizes soon, so get your entries in as quick as you can. One envelope per person.

The competition closes in the next week so be quick.



Compiled and written by

Daryl Katz

UK

League Highlights

## ARSENAL V COVENTRY

Arsenal maintained their momentum in the title race with yet another clean sheet on Saturday, securing a 2-0 victory over a depleted Coventry City side at Highbury.

In the absence of the influential George Boateng as well as strikers Noel Whelan and John Aloisi, Gordon Strachan opted for a five man midfield, deploying Darren Huckerby as a lone striker.

The game started brightly, Gary McAllister running the Coventry midfield with his usual aplomb and Marc Overmars the main early threat for the Gunners.

The first chance of the match fell to Overmars after nine minutes. The Dutch winger latched onto a long clearance from goalkeeper David Seaman, but dragged his shot narrowly wide as raced through on goal.

Arsenal almost grabbed the lead after 15 minutes.

Neat interplay from Nigel Winterburn and Dennis Bergkamp down the

Arsenal left sent Emmanuel Petit clear in the Coventry penalty area, but he shot narrowly wide with only the goalkeeper to beat.

The opening goal was not long in coming though, and arrived just a minute later. Ray Parlour, recalled to the England squad last week, cut in from the right and fired an unstoppable shot which found the bottom corner of Magnus Hedman's net.

Coventry responded well and attempted to push forward in search of an equalising goal. The visitors lacked the necessary cutting edge though, and in committing men forward left themselves vulnerable to the lightning quick Arsenal counter-attacks.

Just before the half hour, good work from Overmars and Parlour found Bergkamp 10 yards out. The Dutchman feinted past Richard Shaw, but hesitated before shooting and sent his effort wide of goal.

Overmars was next to threaten, bringing a good save from Hedman with a fierce 25-yard shot after 32 minutes. Just three minutes later, the Dutch winger was at it again, but this time failed to test Hedman as the ball flew wide of the Coventry goal.

Eight minutes before the break, Bergkamp set up Anelka, who drove the ball straight at Hedman.

Coventry produced some incisive play in the closing minutes of the first half. When Trondt-Egil Soltvedt squandered an opportunity from a Paul Telfer cross, the ball ran on to Stephen Foggatt at the far post.

Foggatt appeared to be fouled by David Seaman as he attempted to force the ball home from close range, but the referee waved play on.

The controversial incident seemed to inspire Coventry and they produced a period of sustained pressure. The Arsenal backline is not easily broken down though, and with Tony Adams in imperious form they managed to deal with a series of Coventry crosses and take their lead into the break.

The second period began in lacklustre fashion, with Arsenal struggling to find the fluency they showed earlier in the game.

Patrick Vieira saw an attempted lob sail over the bar after 52 minutes and four minutes later Mohammed

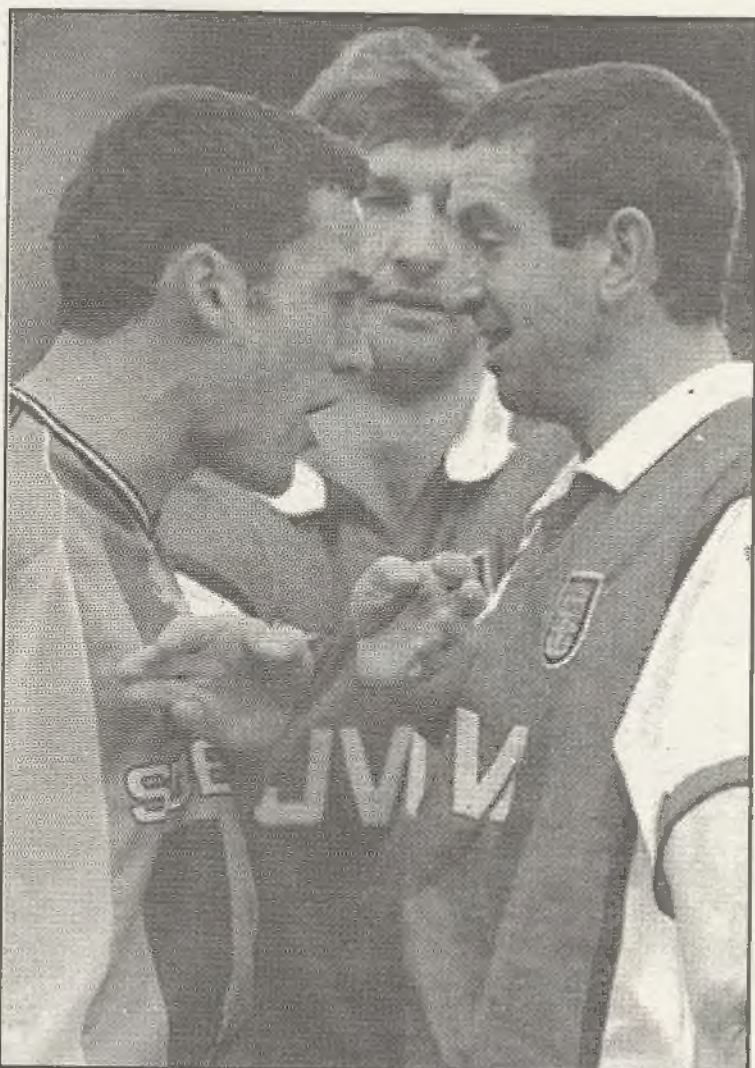
Konjic made a timely intervention to block a shot from Nicolas Anelka.

The workrate of the visiting side ensured that Arsenal were struggling and on 58 minutes Huckerby turned past both Parlour and Keown to fire a curling shot just high and wide.

The match changed after the hour however, as the home side raised the tempo to take control.

On 61 minutes, a penetrating through ball from Anelka found Bergkamp at the far post, but Hedman came quickly from his line to smother the shot. A minute later, Overmars fired just over from 18 yards as the quality of soccer improved.

Swedish midfielder Fredrik Ljungberg was next to threaten. Set up by Bergkamp, he fired in a low drive from 25 yards that saw Hedman desperately scrambling the ball behind. From the resulting corner, Ljungberg



Coventry's Telfer and Arsenal's Winterburn have a friendly man to man chat as Arsenal captain Tony Adams watches on.

again found room to shoot, this time firing straight at the goalkeeper.

Fifteen minutes from time Bergkamp again found a shooting position, but could only fire his shot into the arms of the waiting Hedman.

The second goal seemed imminent and duly arrived ten minutes from time. Substitute Nwankwo Kanu ran hard at the Coventry defence, drawing three defenders before squaring the ball to Overmars who drove a low shot across Hedman and into the bottom corner.

Five minutes from time Bergkamp set up Kanu in the penalty area, but the Nigerian international saw his goalbound volley deflected wide. From the resulting corner Kanu's fellow substitute Kaba Diawara headed narrowly over.

Coventry never gave up and continued to push for an equaliser. The Arsenal defence always looked rock solid though, and the home side might well have scored again as gaps appeared in the Coventry rearguard.

The victory means that Arsenal maintain the pressure on leaders Manchester United at the top of the premiership table. With Arsene Wenger's side looking penetrative up front and disciplined at the back, they might well be marching to a second consecutive premier league title.

## WEST HAM V NEWCASTLE

Enigmatic Italian striker Paolo di Canio produced a virtuoso performance at Upton Park on Saturday, inspiring West Ham to a 2-0 victory over Newcastle United.

The Italian was in the thick of the action from the start, making the most of his free role.

Tormenting the Newcastle defence with his tricks and turns, he set up strike partner Paul Kitson early, only to see the opportunity squandered with a wayward header.

Just 16 minutes into the match he showed his cool finishing as he capitalised on a mix-up in the visiting defence.

The linesman signalled for offside but referee Paul Durkin ruled that the ball had come off a Newcastle player, so playing di Canio onside.

The striker set off towards goal, shimmyed his way past advancing goalkeeper Shay Given, and sidefooted home.

Newcastle's best early chance came from a 20-yard Alan Shearer free-kick, superbly tipped away by his former team-mate Shaka Hislop.

However, all too often the England forward was left on his own up front as his team-mates patently failed to give him the required service.

Newcastle's only other first-half threat came from another dead-ball effort, a Gary Speed drive travelling a foot wide of the left-hand upright.

West Ham were clearly in control and di Canio should have punished Newcastle a second time only to mis-hit his shot after being left in the clear following good work by Trevor Sinclair.

The visitors emerged in more determined mood after the break. Substitutes Rob Lee and Temuri Ketsbaia combined to leave the Georgian midfielder with a clear sight of goal, but he could only fire over the bar.

Hislop produced another fine save to deny

Nolberto Solano, while Rio Ferdinand and Neil Ruddock showed assured form as the home side kept the visitors at bay.

For all their pressure, Newcastle remained vulnerable to the counter, and were almost caught out when di Canio crossed for Kitson to head against the inside of the post. The ball ran agonisingly along the goal-line before Laurent Charvet cleared.



Newcastle's flying Greek international, Georgiadis, impressed at West Ham, but he was unable to stop a rampant West Ham.

Kitson made no mistake, however, after 82 minutes as he ran onto Frank Lampard's long ball to shimmy his way past two defenders and plant a measured shot just inside the far post.

While Hammers manager Harry Redknapp has conceded that signing Paolo Di Canio represented a considerable gamble, he will no doubt be delighted that the controversial Italian is now proving the class act which could inspire Hammers into Europe for the first time in 18 years.



### NEXT WEEK...

**FROM HOLLAND  
YOUNG SOCCEROO  
COACH LES  
SCHEINFLUG, AND  
SOUTH MELBOURNE'S PAUL  
TRIMBOLI, ALL WITH  
THE FOUR DIEGOS**





Glory, Glory, Man United!

